

Estonians reject reform plans

TALLINN (R) — The parliament of Soviet Estonia Wednesday unanimously rejected Kremlin plans to modify the Soviet constitution which would restrict the rights of individual Soviet republics. The chamber instead voted to amend the Estonian constitution, giving itself the right to refuse to apply Soviet legislation in the republic. Deputies at an emergency parliamentary session overwhelmingly proclaimed the "sovereignty of Estonia" within the Soviet Union. They called on the Soviet parliament, the Supreme Soviet, to draw up a treaty of union to regulate relations between the Kremlin and individual republics. At the start of the session the parliament elected Indrek Toome, currently party ideology chief regarded as a leading reformer, as Estonian prime minister. Leaders of the Estonian Popular Front, a mass movement which has organised a campaign against the Kremlin's draft amendments, earlier denied their rejection would put the republic in direct confrontation with Moscow. However, with the parliaments of nearby Latvia and Lithuania now likely to come under increased popular pressure to follow Estonia's example, analysts said the results could pose severe problems for the Soviet leadership.

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AROUND THE WORLD...

S. Arabia expects more locusts

RIYADH (R) — Saudi Arabian Agriculture Minister Abdul Rahman Ibn Hassan Al Sheikh said more locust swarms were expected from across the Red Sea in the next two months. "More locusts are expected to arrive in December and January from neighbouring African countries," the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) Wednesday quoted him as saying. He said 20 helicopters and more than 500 vehicles were ready to fight the fresh swarms.

Rockets hit Pakistani village, 10 killed

PESHAWAR (R) — Afghan rockets hit a Pakistani border village Wednesday killing 10 people and injuring 15, government officials said. They said rockets were fired from Afghanistan and landed in the market at Laday Kaga in a tribal area bordering the eastern Afghan province of Kunar. There was no immediate information about the number of missiles fired or their type.

Pisani named Arab Institute chief

PARIS (AP) — Former European Economic Community (EEC) Commissioner Edgard Pisani was unanimously elected president of the Paris-based Institute of the Arab World, the institute announced Wednesday. Pisani, a socialist senator and close adviser of President Francois Mitterrand, succeeds Paul Carton. Previous presidents were Jean Guidon and Philippe Ardant. The institute gives France, which contributes 60 per cent of the budget, and 20 Arab states. Its aim is to promote an understanding of the Arab World in France.

'Britain-employed members of Nazi units'

LONDON (R) — Britain recruited former members of Nazi units, including scientists, to fill in a post-war labour shortage, a member of parliament said Tuesday. Greville Janner, secretary of the parliamentary war crimes group, said the names of 250 suspected war criminals had been given to a government panel investigating claims that wanted ex-Nazis found refuge in Britain after World War II.

Lawyer convinced Demjanjuk innocent

CLEVELAND (AP) — An American Jewish lawyer who recently interviewed John Demjanjuk in an Israeli prison says he believes he is innocent of the Nazi war crimes for which he has been sentenced to death. William Wolf will return to Israel to assist the defence in an appeal to begin Dec. 5, according to Ed Nishnik, Demjanjuk's son-in-law who heads the John Demjanjuk defence fund. Demjanjuk, 68, a Ukrainian immigrant to the United States after World War II, was convicted by an Israeli judicial panel in April of crimes committed as a Treblinka concentration camp guard.

Polio alert in Oman

MUSCAT (AP) — An outbreak of polio in young children living in villages west of the capital Muscat has put Oman on a nationwide health alert, doctors said Wednesday. The infected villages are centred around the western towns of Rustaq and Jala on the Hadramah coast, according to a health service warning issued to medical workers across the country. It ordered all children under five in these areas to be vaccinated against the crippling disease, whether they have had it previously or not.

Death penalty sought in Sumgait case

MOSCOW (R) — Prosecutors have requested the death penalty for a young Azerbaizani man charged with seven murders during violence against Armenians in the city of Sumgait last February, Moscow radio said Wednesday. The death sentence was requested for 24-year-old Akhmed Akhmedov, one of three men on trial before the Soviet Supreme Court. The radio said a verdict was expected in a few days. The supreme court has ordered a reinvestigation of the cases of Akhmedov's co-defendants, Azad Ismailov, 24, and Yavar Dzhafarov, 18, who are accused of the same seven murders, the radio said.

'Star Wars' chief praises Soviet success

WASHINGTON (R) — The director of the U.S. 'Star Wars' programme praised the maiden flight of the Soviet space shuttle Tuesday but said it illustrated Moscow's ability to quickly mount an anti-missile defence in space. "You have to congratulate the Soviets on what they have done. I think that's a real achievement," U.S. air force Lieutenant General James Abrahamson told reporters after the Soviet shuttle completed its first brief flight. The unmanned white spaceship Buran touched down early Tuesday, three hours 25 minutes after blastoff on the back of the Energiya booster from the Baikonur space centre.

Greek group claims bombings

ATHENS (AP) — A previously unknown left-wing group Wednesday claimed responsibility for two bombings and a failed attempt against a socialist deputy. The group, calling itself "Social Reaction," claimed responsibility for two time bombs that exploded in Athens Tuesday evening with a telephone call to the left-wing afternoon daily Eleftherotypia. No one was injured in the blasts outside the offices of conservative parliamentarian Stefanos Manos and the downtown apartment of Yiannis Latsis, a billionaire Greek industrialist.

Kenyan president tours Iran

NICOSIA (AP) — Kenyan President Daniel Arap Moi arrived in the Iranian city of Isfahan Wednesday, part of a tour of the Islamic republic by a ranking delegation that arrived to mark upgrading relations, the official Islamic Republic News Agency reported. Iran's Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati told his Kenyan counterpart Robert Ouko in an earlier meeting that Iran will continue peace talks with Iraq as long as international laws and Iran's revolution are respected.

'Israel tests nuclear-capable missile'

LONDON (AP) — Israel has conducted a second secret test of a tactical ground-to-ground missile with nuclear capability, Jane's Defence Weekly reports. In its latest issue appearing Wednesday, the respected military journal quotes unnamed U.S. intelligence sources as saying the Jericho-II missile was fired into the Mediterranean in September, at about the same time as Israel launched an experimental satellite into space. The two launches did not appear related, and the firing of the Jericho-II "did not yield any additional information regarding the tactical missile's current and future capabilities," the magazine said.

Thatcher bids farewell to Reagan

WASHINGTON (AP) — British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher bade farewell to Ronald Reagan Wednesday, calling him "one of the greatest" American presidents in history, and reviewed a future agenda with his successor, George Bush. At an emotional ceremony on the White House lawn marked by a 19-gun salute, the two leaders reviewed an honour guard and exchanged profuse praise for their eight years of close cooperation. Reagan thanked the British leader for her support of his economic and diplomatic policies.



AQABA FESTIVITIES — Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor, Her Royal Highness Princess Basma, members of the Royal family attend a water-skiing festival organised in Aqaba.



Wednesday as part of celebrations marking the King's birthday (see story on page 3)

Prince Hassan calls for development programmes involving private sector

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Wednesday called for drawing a framework that defines development trends, and for developing executive programmes in order to activate economic activities and to bolster the private sector — thus enabling this sector to play its role in reactivating economic activity.

Addressing a meeting held at the Industrial Development Bank's unit to promote production and marketing of Jordanian products on the occasion of the start of its consultative services to

Jordanian industrialists, Prince Hassan said the recently announced economic measures were adopted to promote production quality.

He said there was a pressing need to move from the stage of trade to the stage of industry during the next decade.

Prince Hassan pointed out that the agricultural economy can neither grow nor flourish without the expansion of the industrial base needed for production and export.

Referring to burdens facing economic and developmental

planning, and the challenges confronting Jordanian development plans, Prince Hassan stressed the need to move to sectors and provinces in the development process, and to hold a national dialogue designed to crystallise a consensus on the national level in this regard.

Prince Hassan also called for attaining the goals of socio-economic development plans, increasing production, encouraging investment, and increasing exports.

The Industrial Development Bank's general manager told the

meeting that the establishment of a consultative organ within the bank's Jordan Administrative Institute was designed to serving the needs of the private sector, "particularly at a time when it is necessary to quickly adapt to the quick changes taking place in the economic scene, and to benefit from the privileges which the recent measures have brought about."

He also praised the recent economic measures designed to rectify the economic situation.

The meeting was attended by several ministers.

Crown Prince reviews relations with Sudan

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Wednesday held talks with Sudanese Education Minister Sheikh Mahjoub, who participated in the third conference of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation which concluded Tuesday.

The talks centred on means to bolster Jordanian-Sudanese relations in various fields.

Prince Hassan asked the Sudanese official to convey his greetings to Sudanese Supreme Council Chairman Ahmed Al Mirghani and Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi.

Professor Mahjoub praised the interest His Majesty King Hussein and Crown Prince Hassan showed in Sudan and Jordan's support for Sudan.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Wednesday confers with Sudanese Education Minister Sheikh Mahjoub (Petra photo)

PNC declaration gathers support...

AMMAN (Agencies) — Most of the Arab World and several Third World countries Wednesday extended formal recognition to the Palestinian state declared Tuesday by the Palestine National Council (PNC) while Israel launched a diplomatic offensive against the Palestinian initiative.

The United States and many European countries, while ruling out recognition, said the decision by the PNC would be a positive step in trying to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The Soviet Union also said it would help towards a solution in the Middle East, but held off recognising the state, saying it has not been asked to extend diplomatic ties.

Six more countries Wednesday said they recognised the newly-declared Palestinian state — Indonesia, India, Mauritania, Zambia, Yugoslavia and Pakistan.

The six brought to 21 the number of states which said they recognised the Palestinian state.

They were: Algeria, Iraq, Malaysia, Kuwait, Tunisia, Saudi Arabia, North Yemen, South Yemen, Madagascar, Turkey, Bahrain, Jordan, Zambia, Bang-

ladesh, Libya, the United Arab Emirates, Indonesia, India, Mauritania, Yugoslavia and Pakistan.

Countries which said they welcomed the Palestinian action were: Egypt, Qatar, Sri Lanka, Morocco, Greece, the Soviet Union, East Germany and Malta.

The UAE upgraded its reaction from strong support to full recognition Wednesday.

Turkey was the only country on the list that also has relations with Israel and Israeli foreign ministry officials called a special meeting with Turkish Charge d'Affaires Ekrem Guvenderan.

Israeli officials told the top-ranking Turkish diplomat Wednesday morning that "we regret the decision by the Turkish government because it does not serve peace and stability in the region," a ministry spokesman said after the meeting. "It is a disappointing and sorrowful decision."

In China, the Foreign Ministry statement issued by the official Xinhua news agency called it "a new historical era for the Palestinian revolution."

The statement referred to the

friendship between the people of China and those in the "state of Palestine," but it did not explicitly discuss diplomatic links. China has strong links with the PLO and refuses to recognise Israel until it returns Arab territories occupied since 1967.

In India, Foreign Minister Narasimha Rao said, "The establishment of an independent Palestinian state has been our cherished and single-minded objective all these years," the United News of India said.

Arafat announced the decision of the 450-member PNC Tuesday in Algiers, saying it declared "the establishment of a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital, which will be for all Palestinians wherever they are."

The declaration did not define the boundaries of the new state, which Palestinians say should be determined in future negotiations.

The PNC also voted to accept Resolution 242.

French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas told the National Assembly "it is contrary to French legal precedent to recognise a state without definite territory."

But he said: "France has always defended and continues to defend the respective rights of the Jewish and Palestinian people." He said that the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) acceptance of U.N. Resolution 242 removed "one of the most serious obstacles" towards resolving the Arab-Israeli conflict.

In Tunis, Arab League Secretary-General Chadli Klibi called on "the entire world" to support the Palestinian state. And Iraq's Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz sent a letter to the Arab League urging that all Arab states show their support by ordering their foreign ministers to attend the U.N. General Assembly session at which PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat is scheduled to speak later this month.

The United States, while welcoming the PNC vote in Algiers implicitly recognising Israel, said it could not support the unilateral declaration of the Palestinian state.

The Organisation of African

(Continued on page 2)

...as Israelis besiege one million

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israel confined 950,000 Palestinians to their homes and kept West Bank telephone lines cut for the sixth day Wednesday after Palestinians set off fireworks and sang in the streets to celebrate the Palestinian declaration of independence.

Fireworks were heard as late as 3 a.m. (0100 GMT) in Bethlehem. Dozens of Palestinian flags were hung on the walls and on electricity poles, and graffiti read "Congratulations to our people — the state is born."

Soldiers carried out raids to prevent violence from developing in several West Bank areas, an army spokeswoman said. She said arrests were made but would not give the number or any other details.

Hundreds of soldiers patrolled Gaza streets in jeeps, troop

trucks fitted out with plastic shields to protect against stones, and armoured vehicles equipped with machines to spray gravel at protesters.

Smoke from burning tyres rose above the city. At least five tyres were seen aflame in a two-hour, army-conducted tour for reporters. Stones were thrown at one journalist's car in a convoy guarded by two army jeeps.

Soldiers banged on the closed metal doors on one street where a tyre burned. They pulled out a middle-aged man wearing a white robe and ordered him to douse the tyre with water and clear the debris from the roadway.

As the soldiers shouted at the man, more than a dozen protesters in a nearby alley made V-for-victory signs for the benefit of photographers.

An army helicopter dropped dozens of tear-gas grenades into

Gaza City's Shaja'iye neighbourhood, after protesters blocked troops from entering on the ground, residents said.

Armoured personnel carriers rumbled along the main arteries after nightfall and soldiers in jeep convoys with searchlights used loudspeakers to warn residents of a maximum five-year jail sentence or \$10,000 fine for demonstrating.

It had little effect. Demonstrators chanted rhythmically "Falastin, Falastin." Some tossed firecrackers into army jeeps, then darted down darkened alleyways.

Witnesses said protesters also hurled fireworks into army tent camps along the main Gaza Strip highway, causing sentries to fire long bursts of automatic fire into the air.

In Gaza City, black smoke and the stench of burning rubber

choked the night air.

The power cut was apparently meant to prevent Palestinians from watching television coverage of the Palestine National Council meeting in Algiers.

In the divided city of Rafah, at the southern tip of the Gaza Strip, Palestinians on the Egyptian side of the border lit fireworks, sang and clapped as their kinsmen on the Israeli-occupied side were forced indoors by troops.

The army Wednesday extended until December orders closing schools and universities in the West Bank.

The area's 318,000 students have been out of school since February, except for a few weeks last summer. The occupation authorities charge that the schools have been focal points for starting

(Continued on page 2)

Syria supports Palestinian state

DAMASCUS (R) — Syria said Wednesday it supported the establishment of a Palestinian state but warned that concessions would lead to more Israeli obstinacy. "It is natural that Syria supports the Palestinian state because this meets its (Syria's) policy and resolutions of the Arab summit and international legitimacy," a statement by a responsible source said. But the statement, carried by the Syrian News Agency SANA, said concessions to Israel would lead to more stubbornness by the Zionist state. Diplomats said this was a reference to implicit recognition of Israel by the Palestine National Council (PNC) at its meeting in Algiers where Tuesday it declared an independent Palestinian state. The statement was the first by Syria since the independence declaration. "It has become clear that pressure on Arabs to give concession after concession gave the Israeli enemy big gains which he utilised to serve aggression and wars without moving one step towards peace," it said. "In the light of the Israeli enemy's plans and goals it has become clear that giving concessions could lead to nothing but stubbornness (by Israel) and place emphasis on its aggressive and expansionist policies."

Iraq warns Iran against blocking ships

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq warned Iran Wednesday against obstructing its ships in the Gulf and Strait of Hormuz though it remained committed to a lasting peace.

In a statement quoted by the Iraqi News Agency (INA), Iraq's leaders said any violation of the Iraqi right of free navigation would violate an Aug. 20 ceasefire with Iran.

INA said President Saddam Hussein had chaired a meeting of the Revolutionary Command Council and ruling Baath Party regional leadership to review peace talks under U.N. auspices.

They stressed Iraq's right of free navigation of its commercial and war vessels in international waters of the Gulf and Strait of Hormuz as part of the ceasefire, INA reported.

Iraq and Iran have held three rounds of peace talks on the eight-year-old conflict but have made no major progress.

The last ended in Geneva Friday with both sides agreeing to exchange sick prisoners-of-war Nov. 20.

The Iraqi leaders emphasised Baghdad's desire for a comprehensive and permanent peace in the Gulf and rejected any attempt to turn the ceasefire into a temporary truce, INA said.

They also approved the gradual discharge of reserve officers from army.

Baghdad Radio said the first group of officers would be released Dec. 1 with more following later. It did not say how many men were involved.

The Iraqi move followed re-

ports of planned demobilisation of some military units in the wake of the ceasefire in the conflict.

Iran's official radio, monitored in Nicosia, said new units of Basij, or volunteers, are still being despatched to frontline positions to maintain Iran's combat readiness.

The radio quotes Parliament Speaker Hashemi Rafsanjani, who is also Iran's acting commander-in-chief, as saying Wednesday during a visit to war-ravaged Khuzestan province in southwest Iran: "The chances of the war resuming are slight. But we must maintain war-readiness."

Baghdad Radio said the Iraqi command council reviewed a Defence Ministry contingency plan for future mobilisation, but noted that such a move would only be made "in accordance with the political and military situation."

The Iraqi government ruled earlier this month that it plans to stand down some units of the regular army and disband some units of the paramilitary popular army, a 650,000-man reserve force.

But there has been no confirmation that any forces have been demobilised yet while the peace talks remain stalled.

President Hussein said Monday Iraq has built up an army of 77 divisions in addition to 23 independent paramilitary Kurdish battalions.

Low turnout in Pakistani polls

ISLAMABAD (Agencies) — Pakistanis voted peacefully Wednesday in the first party-based elections for 11 years, but party workers said the voting rules had kept turnout low.

Two hours after the close of polls at 5.00 p.m. (1200 GMT), no reports of serious violence or disruption had been received. Fast elections in Pakistan have often been marked by clashes between rival supporters.

Police kept a close watch on polling stations as voters streamed in to elect a civilian government after the 11-year rule of military president Mohammad Zia Ul Haq, who died in a plane crash in August.

The army patrolled in several major cities, backed in riot-prone Karachi by tanks and military spotter-planes.

Opposition leader Benazir Bhutto, who hopes to become the first woman elected prime minister of a Muslim country, voted at her family's ancestral home in

Sind province. "I feel great," she told reporters as hundreds of villagers chanted "Long live Bhutto" outside the polling station.

Bhutto, 35, sprinkled rose petals on the grave of her father, former Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, who was overthrown by Zia in 1977 and executed in 1979.

Funjab province Chief Minister Nawaz Sharif, one of her three main rivals, was equally confident.

"We are going to win," he said after voting in his Lahore constituency.

About 30 political parties were contesting the National Assembly polls, but the leading contenders were Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and the nine-party Islamic Democratic Alliance (IDA) dominated by a right-wing loyalists of Zia.

Election officials said unofficial

(Continued on page 4)

Labour holds out for more in Likud coalition

TEL AVIV (R) — Labour Party ministers have rejected an initial offer by Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir to join his rightist Likud in a new "national unity" government, political sources said Wednesday.

The ministers, who met late Tuesday after hearing Shamir's proposal for a Likud-led government with Labour participation, said Shamir failed to answer their basic demand for parity in the government.

"What he is offering us is to be in a Shamir government in a minority and in the end they will push us to the corner in a struggle over cabinet portfolios," Immigration Ministry Minister Yacov Tsur of Labour told army radio.

The Labour ministers said they demanded an equal number of cabinet posts in the government and half the seats in the 10-member policy-making inner cabinet.

They were expected to decide at a meeting Wednesday whether to continue coalition talks with

Likud, their partner in a four-year-old "unity" government, or go into opposition.

"I am sure we will not be able to have any influence in a government like this. All in all we would have to support the policies of Likud and the ultra-orthodox," Tsur said.

Shamir was nominated to form the next government Monday after winning the support of Jewish religious parties which gained the balance of power in Nov. 1 elections.

He promised them several key ministries, money for their institutions and strict religious legislation likely to enrage America's powerful Jewish community (see page 2).

Shamir told Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, the Labour Party leader, he would have to drop the idea of an international Middle East peace conference in order to join Israel's next government.

Shamir said a "unity" government would work instead for direct talks with Palestinians and Arab states.

Morocco wages war on locusts

GUELMIM, Morocco (R) — "It's war, war," a Moroccan official said, jabbing at a map dotted with coloured drawing pins.

Agriculture Ministry official Ahmad Dliou was not referring to Morocco's long war with Polisario guerrillas over the disputed Western Sahara but to a campaign to defeat the country's rich farmlands against the worst locust threat this century.

The drawing pins represented centres in the southern region where numerous locust invasions since October last year had been destroyed before they could reach the agricultural areas.

Agriculture provides a livelihood to 55 per cent of Morocco's 24 million population and contributes more than 13 per cent of the gross domestic product.

Setbacks in the sector, such as droughts or destruction of crops, can seriously strain the economy. Officials said Morocco had formed three defence lines in the semi-desert and sparsely-populated south, the worst affected by the locusts, to fight off the pests. The campaign appeared to be succeeding although the threat persisted, they said.

Last month a locust swarm in one area of Guelmim province, 200 kilometres from the nearest crop-growing areas in the Souss Valley, denuded fig trees and damaged ripening dates.

Tens of thousands of yellow and pink locusts killed by aerial spraying littered the area.

The last major locust invasion of Morocco in 1954 ravaged the Souss Valley crops, particularly citrus fruit groves which took five years to recover from the disaster.

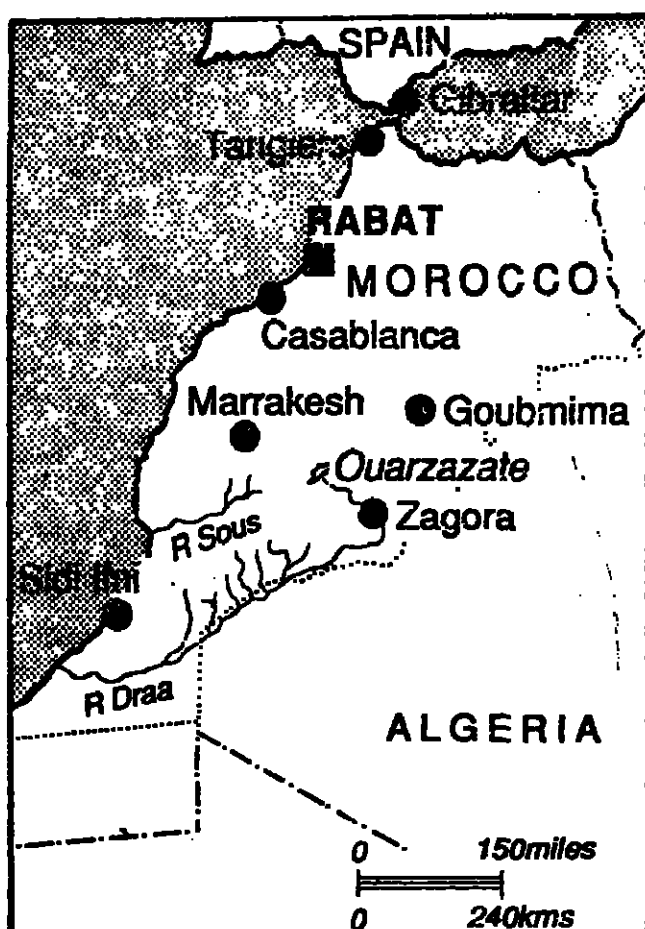
The cyclical plague, which breeds in the Sahel countries of North and Central Africa, is also threatening other states in Africa and the Middle East.

Latest figures from the Moroccan Interior Ministry show that more than 10 million hectares of Africa from the Nile to the Atlantic have been infested by locusts but only half the area has been treated.

The enormity of the locust danger prompted King Hassan to convene the first international conference in Fez, Morocco, last month in an attempt to mobilise more aid and cooperation.

"We are in an internal cycle of searching for water, storing and conserving it to develop agriculture and to create green areas... all this to attract locusts," he told delegates from 35 countries and organisations attending the meeting.

He said he felt a "metaphysical fear" from the menace, and suggested the creation of an anti-locust "green force," with freedom to move across international borders and airspaces.



With technical and financial aid from United Nations agencies and several donor countries, Morocco and Algeria, Tunisia, Libya and Mauritania have been cooperating in the fight against the locusts.

Morocco has drafted more than 3,000 people into its campaign, with the armed forces and the gendarmerie providing logistical support, including helicopters and big C-130 transport planes.

"At each regional centre, we study in the evenings data on locust movements and plan the next day's action, attacking the invading swarms first thing in the morning before they are energised by the sun's heat to resume their destructive flight to greener pastures," Dliou said.

U.S. bishops plan policy statement on Mideast

WASHINGTON (AP) — America's Roman Catholic bishops, turning from internal disputes, said Tuesday they would begin drafting a document they hope will be influential in ending violence in the Middle East.

Archbishop Roger Mahony of Los Angeles, head of an ad hoc bishops' committee that will put the statement together, said the effort was spurred by continuing reports of "the clashes and difficulties of the Palestinians and Israelis" in an area where there are also numbers of Catholics.

However, he said he was encouraged by reports that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) had agreed to recognise Israel.

"That is obviously very important movement," Mahony said. "The church is rooted in the soil of that region," he said, noting Jesus was born, preached and died there.

Jackson hails PNC move

The Rev. Jesse Jackson Tuesday hailed the new political programme adopted by the Palestine

National Council (PNC) and expressed hope it would be accepted by Israel and the United States.

The PNC's acceptance of U.N. Resolution 242 and the renunciation of violence "represent a maturity of judgment that people of good will everywhere concerned with peace in the Middle East are inspired to support," Jackson said in a message to PNC Speaker Abdul Mahdi Al Sayeh.

"We here in the United States working for a peace policy that our government should embrace

are encouraged by this most recent action on your part," said Jackson.

Jackson, the black leader who lost to Michael Dukakis in a bid for the Democratic Party's presidential nomination, said he had long supported "the Palestinians' right to self-determination and statehood and the right of Israel to security within internationally recognised borders."

"I hope this political and diplomatic initiative will receive a reciprocal response..." Jackson added.

American Jews urge Shamir not to cause row

NEW YORK (R) — Thirty-five U.S. Jewish groups urged Israel Tuesday to "preserve Jewish unity" in a statement that appeared aimed at heading off an Israeli government pledge to change the country's laws on who constitutes a Jew.

The 35 groups, meeting at the headquarters of the World Jewish Congress, issued a carefully worded statement amid reports that Yitzhak Shamir might form an Israeli government with two orthodox parties pledged to redefine who is Jewish under Israel's law of "return."

The groups, which included the

American Jewish Congress, B'nai B'rith and the Anti-Defamation League, pledged full support for Israel and added: "We hope that all political parties in Israel and their supporters in the diaspora will spare no effort to preserve Jewish unity in the spirit of reciprocal respect."

As Shamir negotiates with the two small orthodox parties, American Jewish leaders worry that he might commit the next government of Israel to a law that recognises converts to Judaism only if they have been converted by orthodox rabbis.

The definition of who is a Jew

is critical in determining Israeli citizenship, which is currently open to all Jews and all converts.

The United States has the world's largest Jewish population, but only about 10 per cent of its more than five million Jews are members of the orthodox branch.

The rest are members of the conservative and reform branches, some of whom are very angry at the possibility of change in the law of "return."

"What is at stake is the partnership of Israel and the diaspora," says Rabbi Ismar Schorsch, chancellor of New York's Jewish Theological Semi-

nary, a major centre for Judaism's conservative branch.

Reform Jewish leader Alexander Schindler said: "I am bitterly disappointed that Prime Minister Shamir has decided to risk Jewish unity at a time when... the forthcoming change in the American presidency require that we all stand together."

If the law of "return" is changed to meet orthodox demands, it would only affect a few hundred would-be immigrants but would have a major symbolic importance for millions of Jews who live outside Israel and are not orthodox.

U.S. agency reviews Israeli trade preferences

WASHINGTON (R) — A U.S. interagency panel opened an investigation Tuesday into charges that six countries, including Israel, should be stripped of preferential trade benefits for allegedly violating workers' rights.

But a pro-Israeli group and an American union leader con-

tended that the probe of Israel, cited along with Malaysia, Haiti, Burma, Liberia and Syria, was politically motivated.

Israel could lose a tariff preference on about \$487 million worth of exports given special treatment under the 11-year-old U.S. generalised system of preferences (GSP), which cuts tariffs to help the economies of developing countries.

Under the programme, GSP status must end when a country is deemed to have become developed or is found to have abused worker or human rights or to have seized property illegally.

The Arab-American Anti-Discrimination Committee (AAADC) filed the complaint against Israel, charging it had denied rights to Palestinian trade unions and Palestinian workers in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Nadia Sharif, a spokeswoman for the American Jewish Committee, said the complaint was "political" because the AAADC had never complained about other countries which she said were far more

guilty of abusing Palestinian worker rights.

She also said the decision by U.S. Trade Representative Clayton Yeutter to accept the complaint for a hearing — instead of rejecting it as he does many others — was taken in retaliation for Israel's expulsion of Palestinians.

Albert Shanker, president of the American Federation of Teachers and chairman of the International Affairs Committee of the AFL-CIO labour confederation, told the interagency panel in prepared testimony the United States had unfairly stigmatised Israel.

He said it unfairly indicated that "the U.S. government considers Israel in the same category as Syria, Haiti, Burma, Malaysia and the Central African Republic" on human rights.

The interagency panel, which is comprised of officials from the trade office and the state, treasury and commerce departments, is already reviewing worker and human rights abuses in the Central African Republic.

Greek banking scandal hits ruling Socialists

ATHENS (AP) — Apostolos Lazaris, a respected member of the ruling Socialist Party, resigned Tuesday from parliament to protest the government's handling of a growing financial scandal that has implicated ministers and senior members of the party.

Lazaris, who served as national economy minister and as minister to the premier's office in previous Panhellenic Socialist Movement (PASOK) administrations, also resigned from the party.

His resignation could result in other disillusioned PASOK members leaving parliament and the party who feel the government dragged its feet on ordering a central bank investigation into the financial dealings of 34-year-old banker-publisher George Koskotas who headed the Bank of Crete.

Former officials of the Bank of Crete, daily newspapers and magazines, have charged that Premier Andreas Papandreu, his son George who is minister of education, Justice Minister and Deputy Premier Agamemnon Koutsogiorgas and ranking party members were involved in illegal financial deals, with Koskotas.

Koutsogiorgas stepped down as justice minister but said he would

retain his deputy premier's post.

The entire political opposition have been unanimous in calling for the government's resignation and the appointment of a parliamentary committee to investigate the scandal.

Koskotas was charged with fraud and embezzlement of bank funds in October and ordered to testify before a district attorney on Nov. 14. But he disappeared on Nov. 6, six days after he was banned from leaving the country and is believed to have fled Greece.

His disappearance led to the resignation of Public Order Minister Tassos Sotiropoulos whose ministry was responsible for police surveillance of the banker.

Koskotas, who resided in the United States, returned to Greece in 1979 and worked for the Bank of Crete as an accountant for two years before he bought a controlling interest in 1984.

He is charged with using bank funds to establish the Grammi publishing group which controlled three national dailies, five magazines, an \$87 million printing plant and buy controlling interest in one of Greece's leading soccer clubs, Olympiakos Piraeus.

PNC move gathers support

(Continued from page 1)

Unity (OAU) Wednesday welcomed as "a courageous and constructive" proclamation of the Palestinian state.

"We reiterate our support for a continued commitment to the Palestine cause," said Ide Oumarou, the pan-African body's secretary general, in a message to Arafat. "We consider the decisions you have taken as courageous and constructive," Oumarou said.

Greece and East Germany were among countries which welcomed the PNC decision but stopped short of recognising the state.

Switzerland said it could not recognise it because it had neither a government nor internationally accepted frontiers.

Belgian Foreign Minister Leo Tindemans said the declaration

would not make Middle East talks any easier. He added the PNC declaration would be discussed by the 12 European Economic Community (EEC) foreign ministers at their monthly meeting next Monday and Tuesday.

The Organisation of Islamic Conference urged all countries to recognise the state.

An OIC statement, carried by the Saudi Press Agency, urged the world community to take advantage of Palestinian peace overtures towards Israel and called for the convening of an international Middle East peace conference.

Outright opposition to the PNC move came from hardline Palestinian groups which condemned the council's acceptance of Resolution 242, and vowed to continue the struggle against Israel.

Israelis besiege one million

(Continued from page 1)

demonstrations.

In Arab Jerusalem, the city closed Arab schools with about 16,000 students for one day.

Phone lines to the West Bank have been cut off for six days. Electricity was cut off for several hours last night in large areas in the territories.

In Bethlehem, under curfew

orders for the first time since 1967, dozens of Palestinians ran through the streets singing and setting off fireworks.

Soldiers in jeeps drove through the West Bank ordering Palestinians to return to their homes. "Everybody who goes out will endanger his life," one soldier announced over a loudspeaker in Bethlehem.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran
15:50 Programme review
16:00 Children programmes
16:45 Local programme
17:30 Programme on Jordan
18:00 News summary
18:05 World Reports
18:20 Local programme
18:50 "Alph"
19:15 Health programme
19:40 Programme review
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Arabic series
21:40 Programme review
21:45 Programme on Islamic art
22:30 News summary in Arabic
23:10 Film (cont.)

PROGRAMME TWO

17:30 Des chères et de lettres
18:30 Adventures voyages
18:50 Rue Carnot
19:00 News in French
19:15 Un DB De Plus
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:45 Varieties
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Bill Cosby Show
21:10 Beauty and the Beast
22:00 News in English
22:20 Feature film: "The Sunshine Patriot"

RADIO JORDAN

855 KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM & partly on 95.0 KHz. SW
Tel: 77111-19

FOR FRIDAY

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

10:00 Koran
10:20 Children programme
10:30 Religious programme
11:30 Friday's prayer
12:30 Religious seminar
12:50 Sports programme
13:20 News in Hebrew
14:00 News in Arabic
15:20 The world around us
16:10 Feature film
17:30 Evening series
18:00 News summary in Arabic
18:10 Message from Oman

JORDAN BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Opening hours 9.00 a.m.-4.00 p.m.
Closed Saturdays. Tel. 664240.

MUSEUMS

"Children's Heritage and Science Museum," Fun and knowledge for all ages, plus a small planetarium at the Haya Arts Centre. Open all week 9.00 a.m. - 1 p.m. and 3.30 p.m. - 6.00 p.m. Closed on Friday.
Jabal Al Qal'a (Clashed Hill). Opening hours: 9.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.
Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculptures by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by 19th Century orientalist artists. Munataz, Jabal Luweibdeh. Opening hours: 10.00 a.m. - 1.30 p.m. and 3.00 p.m. - 6.00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 630128.
Mariyats' Memorial (Military Museum): Collection of military memorabilia dating from the Arab Revolt of 1916. Sports City, Amman.

CHURCHES

St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Amman. Tel. 624590.
Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabal Luweibdeh. Tel. 637440.
De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Hussein. Tel. 661757.
St. Mary's Church (Roman Catholic) English mass (summer time 6 p.m., winter time 5 p.m.).
Terrasanta Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Luweibdeh, mass in Italian language, meet every Saturday at 5.30 p.m. Tel. 622366.
Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox) Abdali. Tel. 633541.
Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabal Amman. Tel. 625383.
chaplain's residence tel. 628543.
Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh. Tel. 711331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh. Tel. 772361.
St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh. Tel. 771751.
Armenian International Church (Inter-denominational): meets at Southern Baptist School in Shmeisani. Tel. 685326.
Evangelical Lutheran Church (Church of the Good Shepherd) Amman. Arabic Service: Sunday 7 p.m. Rev. N. Smir, tel. 811295.
Rabbi's Congregation (meets at the Good Shepherd's Church) inter-denominational-cum-ecumenical English Service: Saturday 6.30 p.m. tel. 822605. Rev. J. de Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (Mormons) Tel. 815817. 821264.

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06) 53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)

06:00 Agaba (RJ)
06:10 Jeddah (RJ)
06:20 Muscat, Bahrain (GF)
06:30 Kuwait (KU)
06:40 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
06:50 Dhahran, Kuwait (RJ)
07:00 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
07:10 Calcutta (RJ)
07:20 Belgrade, Bucharest, Larnaca (RJ)
07:30 Athens (RJ)
07:40 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
07:50 London, Geneva (RJ)
08:00 Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)
08:10 Bangkok (RJ)
08:20 Tripoli (RJ)
08:30 Rome (RJ)
08:40 Baghdad (RJ)

OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)

06:20 Damascus, Frankfurt (LH)
06:30 Tunis (TU)
06:40 Bahrain, Muscat (GF)
06:50 Kuwait (KU)
07:00 Ankara, Istanbul (TK)
07:10 Riyadh (SV)
07:20 Baghdad (IA)
07:30 Bucharest (RO)
07:40 Cairo (MS)
07:50 Baghdad (AF)
08:00 Sam's (LH)

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Another increase on temperature occurs and clouds in different heights increase gradually. Winds will be southwesterly moderate. In Agaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./max. temp.
Amman 4 / 19
Agaba 8 / 25
Desert 12 / 25
Jordan Valley 2 / 20

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 14, Agaba 24. Humidity readings: Amman 16 per cent. Agaba 20 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Ibrahim Abu Quta 740996
Dr. Daud Al Obeidi 790367
Dr. Mohammad Al 'Ajem 892224
Dr. Sahar Badr 894362
Firas pharmacy 641912
Ferdous pharmacy 778336
Al Asema pharmacy 637055
Nairook pharmacy 623672
Al Salan pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945

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Prince Mohammad visits GHQ

HIS ROYAL Highness Prince Mohammad, the personal representative of His Majesty King Hussein, Wednesday visited the Armed Forces General Headquarters and conferred for some time with Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Field Marshal Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker. He earlier visited the University of Jordan and met with University President Dr. Abdul Salam Al Majali.

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

KING CONGRATULATES SYRIA: His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday sent a congratulatory cable to Syrian President Hafez Al Assad on the anniversary of the corrective movement. The King wished the Syrian president good health and the Syrian people further progress and prosperity. (Petra)

IRAQI AIR CHIEF LEAVES: Iraqi Air Force Commander Lieutenant General Hamid Shababan and the accompanying delegation Wednesday left Amman at the conclusion of a several-day visit to Jordan. He was seen off by His Royal Highness Prince Faisal Ibn Hussein, the commander of the Royal Air Force, the Iraqi ambassador in Amman, the Iraqi military attaché in Amman, and a number of air force officers. (Petra)

JAHR HEALTH CENTRE: Within the framework of Ma'an Governorate's celebrations of His Majesty King Hussein's birthday, Health Minister Dr. Zaid Hamzeh Wednesday laid the cornerstone of the Jafr Health Centre project. The centre will provide medical services to about 5,000 residents from Anjara and neighbouring residential areas. (Petra)

SOCCER MATCH: Within the framework of the celebrations marking His Majesty King Hussein's birthday, a soccer match was held Wednesday between the military team and the University of Jordan team at the university stadium. The military team beat the university team 1-0. A number of senior army officers and the university dean of student affairs attended the match.

MOROCCAN INDEPENDENCE DAY: His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday sent a congratulatory cable to Moroccan King Hassan II on Morocco's Independence Day. The King wished King Hassan good health and the Moroccan people progress and prosperity. (Petra)

CONDOLENCES: The Royal Hashemite Court Secretary General, Dr. Bassam Al Saker, Wednesday represented His Majesty King Hussein in conveying condolences to the Hikmat family on the death of Zakiyya Mirza, the widow of late Oman Hikmat and the mother of Senate member Fridon Hikmat. (Petra)

EDUCATION EXHIBITION: The Madaba district education director Wednesday opened an exhibition of educational aids at the Imam Al Din Zanki School in Madaba, including oil paintings, wooden models, in addition to a section containing His Majesty King Hussein's pictures and maps explaining the developments Jordan witnessed during King Hussein's era. (Petra)

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- * An art exhibition by Mohammad Samara at Alia Art Gallery — 5:00 p.m.
- * An exhibition of iconographies, signs and public places by the German artist Otto Herbert Hajek at the Professional Association Complex — 6:00 p.m.
- * An exhibition of rare Arabic coins at the Central Bank of Jordan.
- * A book exhibition of recent American publications on economics, management, business, and other topics of interest to students and professionals in business and public administration at the American Centre — 10:00 a.m.

FILMS

- * An Italian film entitled "Parl'E Dispari" at Haya Arts Centre — 7:00 p.m.
- * A feature film entitled "Children of a Lesser God" at the American Centre — 7:00 p.m.

Queen Noor to inaugurate Museum of Jordanian Heritage at Yarmouk

AMMAN (J.T.) — Museum of Jordanian Heritage which is being set up at Yarmouk University's Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology (IAA) will be inaugurated by Her Majesty Queen Noor on Nov. 22, as part of Jordan's celebrations of His Majesty King Hussein's 53rd birthday.

Yarmouk University officials said that the museum will display a wide-range of items that focus on human development in Jordan since early ages, and should rightly be regarded as one of the most significant museums in the Middle East.

The institute's Director Dr. Mu'awiah Ibrahim said that Yarmouk University has become specialised in the study of ancient civilisations and heritage, and their relationship to different periods in history.

Items to be displayed at the museum date as far back as 1.5 million years, according to Dr. Ibrahim. These are being displayed in such a manner that they can be of benefit to all visitors, regardless of their age and educational background, Dr. Ibrahim added.

He said, the museum will continue to display images of activities and parts of the excavation programmes and studies that are being conducted in the field by university professors who maintain cooperation with the Department of Antiquities and other Jordanian universities.

Dr. Ibrahim said that the IAA had carried out studies that shed light on Jordan's culture and history since early times.



Dr. Birgit Mershen, curator of the Museum of Jordanian Heritage at Yarmouk University stands in front of the showcase: "From Decapoli to Jund Al Urdun."

The IAA, he added, maintains close cooperation with the West German archaeological institutions in unearthing the artefacts and antiquities of Jordan and cooperation in this regard in the past few years led to the discovery of new artefacts at Umm Oais, where a major agricultural settlement dating to the Stone Age was unearthed.

The two sides, he said, carry out archaeological digs in Karak, Naqab, Irbid and Petra in addition to the Jordan Valley.

New cultural, scientific centre

Queen Noor will also inaugurate the non-profit Cultural and Scientific Centre of the Abdul Hamid Shouman Foundation on Nov. 19, 1988.

In the centre there will be an exhibition of paintings by eight artists who will donate 10% of

their proceeds to the Jordanian Artists Association.

The artists, Samira Badran, Nabila Hilmi, Mahmoud Taha, Nabil Shehadeh, Abdul Raouf Shamoun, Aziz Ammoura, Ahmad Nawash, and Ayad Al Nimer are specialised in the struggle of man, abstractions, ceramics and calligraphy, figurations, impressions and portraits, comical and satirical views of the human struggle and contemporary Egyptian art respectively.

The foundation, which was founded in 1978, aims at participating in Arab scientific research, contributing to the training and development of a generation of Arab specialists in basic and applied sciences, hosting seminars and other activities that the foundation deems necessary.

After inaugurating the exhibition, Queen Noor will tour the foundation's departments and facilities.

ISESCO to have HQ in Morocco

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — The third conference of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (ISESCO) has concluded a four day meeting in Amman by endorsing a three-year plan for the organisation's activities and approving reports by the organisation's administrative, legal and financial committees on the previous three years.

Meeting under the chairmanship of Minister of Education Thouqan Al Hindawi, the conference said that the plan between 1988 and 1991 will have a \$28 million budget which will cover 86 programmes on education, culture, science, information and a

data bank.

The conference's final statement paid tribute to those ISESCO member states which have already paid up their financial commitments to the organisation and urged the rest to follow suit.

The conference approved an agreement with Morocco to serve as a host country to the organisation's headquarters, and requested the organisation's director general to conduct a survey to ensure Islamic countries' full support for ISESCO to serve as a main agency that would undertake the task of coordinating all matters related to education, science, and culture among various Islamic organisations.

The statement said that the

conference postponed taking any steps towards amendments to the organisation's charter but set up a specialised committee to study the charter and statutes and report on them to the fourth conference.

The participants made a general review of the organisation's status and programmes at the conclusion of its six years of existence and re-elected Abdul Hadi Boutaleb to serve as the organisation's director general for the coming three years.

The final statement included a warm welcome for the independent Palestinian state and said that they would urge all ISESCO member nations to extend recognition to the new state.

Jordan wins honours in Baghdad fair

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan's pavilion at the Baghdad International Trade Fair has been awarded a distinguished medal in recognition of the high level quality of products displayed in it, according to Minister of Industry and Trade Hamdi Tabbaa.

Tabbaa said that at the fair, which was concluded Tuesday, a total of 300 Jordanian companies displayed samples of their products which were examined by thousands of visitors. The pavilion's success, he said, proves the great prospects which Jordan's products have in the Iraqi and Arab markets. The minister said that the honouring of the Jordanian pavilion should serve as an incentive to private sector's industries which can further boost Jordan's trade with Arab and foreign countries.

Haj Hassan and Kuwaiti team discuss cooperation

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation representing the Kuwaiti Ministry of Communications met here Wednesday with Minister of Transport and Telecommunications Khaled Al Haj Hassan to discuss bilateral cooperation in transport and communications.

Haj Hassan told the delegation that his ministry will be willing to place its experience under Kuwait's disposal.

The delegation leader, Saleh Sudan, said that the delegation will examine Jordan's experience in land transport, its rules and regulations, to benefit from them in formulating similar regulations in Kuwait.

NEW QATARI ENVOY: Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri Wednesday received new Qatari Ambassador Mubarak Naser Al Kuwari at the Foreign Ministry. During the meeting, the Qatari ambassador presented a copy of his credentials. (Petra)

JORDAN, SYRIA DISCUSSIONS: Syrian Prime Minister Mahmoud Al Zou'bi Wednesday received Jordanian Ambassador in Damascus Nayef Al Hadid. They discussed bilateral relations and Zou'bi stressed the importance of following up the implementation of the supreme Jordanian-Syrian committee's recommendation for the interest of the two peoples and countries. (Petra)

Aqaba continues celebrations on King's birthday

Their Majesties attend water skiing festival

AQABA (J.T.) — Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor attended an international water skiing festival in Aqaba as part of events staged by the Kingdom to mark King Hussein's 53rd birthday.

Participants in the event included professional skiers, swimmers and divers from the Cypress Garden Club and other professional from the American state of California.

Royal Jordanian and the Ministry of Tourism, which have recently joined forces to promote tourism in Jordan, co-sponsored the event.

Several thousand spectators, who included Royal Family members and senior local officials, attended the competition which included a variety of skills.

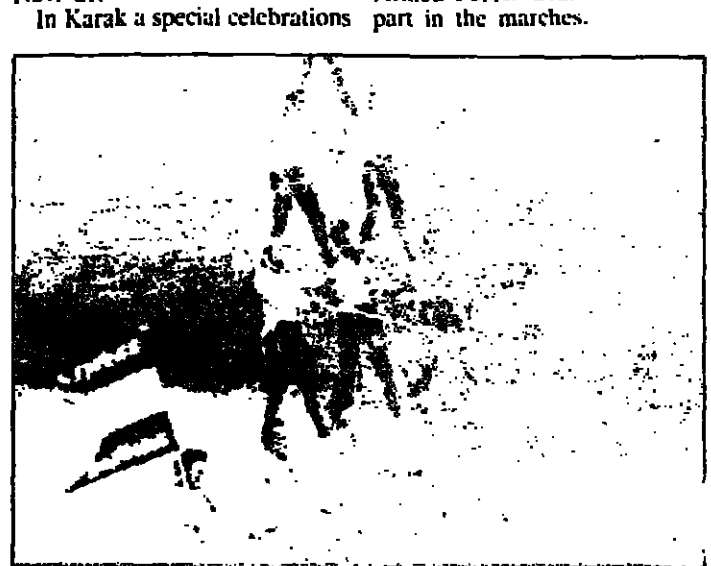
Participants from the Cypress Garden group carried the Jordanian flag and posters skied past the royal stand at the outset of the water-ski show.

Vessels and boats in the harbour took part in the festival along with coast guard boats which passed before the spectators carrying posters and flags. Several national dances were organised on board the vessels.

Celebrations on the King's birthday were held in Zarqa where a new civil registration and passport branch was opened and speeches were made on the occasion.

was held at schools during which speeches were delivered and the first group of People's Army recruits was graduated at a special ceremony held at the Karak Municipality Hall.

In Ma'an marches were organised in the streets and ceremonies and gatherings were held at schools and other cultural and educational centres. Local scout groups and the Royal Jordanian Armed Forces Brass Band took part in the marches.



Cypress Garden Club team in action during last year's celebrations of His Majesty King Hussein's birthday (file photo)

Frost damages Jordan Valley crops

JORDAN VALLEY (J.T.) — Large areas of farmland have been affected by the cold wave that hit Jordan in the past three days, according to the Jordan Valley Farmers Association President Mohammad Tawil.

Tawil was quoted by Sawt Al Shaab Arabic daily as saying the frost and the very low temperatures have brought about severe

damage to certain types of crops.

He said that the banana crop has been affected badly and nearly 40 to 50 per cent of the harvest has been lost. Other types of crops included eggplants, marrows, and potatoes, some of which were damaged up to 100 per cent, Tawil noted.

He said that vegetables in Damieh area, especially eggplants and marrows, were damaged by the frost at a time when they were about to ripen.

Special arrangements will be made to help the farmers repay their loans to the association in view of the great loss they suffered, Tawil noted.

He called on farmers to cover their crops and take other precautions such as burning tyres to lessen the effect of frost on the vegetables.

Ministry of Agriculture's Secretary General Salem Al Lawzi has made a tour of the stricken areas and assessed the losses.

Rawi elected new ALESCO director

AMMAN (Petra) — The Arab League Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (ALESCO) Wednesday elected Dr. Musare Hassan Al Rawi as the organisation's director general for the coming three years to succeed Dr. Muieddin Saber in this post.

The election took place at ALESCO's extraordinary session in Amman during which Minister of Education Thouqan Hindawi underlined the importance of close cooperation among Arab states in education, culture and science.

"Jordan is proud to host the meeting in Amman at a time that coincides with the proclamation of the independent Palestinian state and that marks Egypt's rejoining the organisation's activities," Hindawi said in a speech at the meeting.

The outgoing director general delivered a speech urging the delegates to double their efforts to protect Arab and Islamic culture and outlined the organisation's programmes in the fields of Arabic language, science and Arab and Islamic culture.

Other delegates who spoke at the opening session paid tribute to Jordan for organising the meeting.

4 die of asphyxiation

AMMAN (J.T.) — Four people died of asphyxiation in Amman, Tlaa Al Ali and Salt regions, according to a report by Al Ra'i Arabic daily.

The report said that two workers, one Pakistani and the other Egyptian, were found to have

inhaled smoke and died when a cottage they were sleeping in was burnt down.

One of the other two victims died in Jofa in Amman and the other near Tlaa Al Ali, both of whom had left the heater on all night.

THE EGYPTIAN JORDANIAN CO. FOR INVESTMENT & DEVELOPMENT (HOLDING CO.)

INVITATION FOR OFFERS FOR TECHNICAL & ECONOMIC FEASIBILITY STUDIES FOR FISH FARMING PROJECT

The Egyptian Jordanian Co. for Investment & Development wishes to establish a fish farming project and fish culture in cages in the suitable water levels in the Arab Republic of Egypt in order to provide fresh fish for local consumption, basically, for both the Egyptian & Jordanian markets, in addition to other project aims which could be obtained from the Head Office in Amman.

For this purpose, The Holding Co. calls on the feasibility studies offices specialised in this field to submit their offers not later than the end of November 1988 to the following address:

P.O. Box 925611, Tel: 669200/669201, Fax: 689199, Amman - Jordan

General Manager
Medhat Abdul Aziz

PLAZA

TIMES

Friday

Sunday & everyday

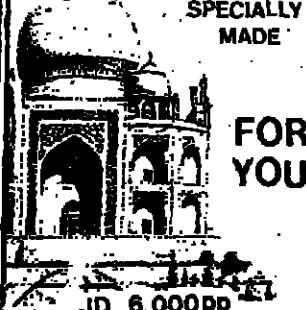
LUNCH BUFFET
at the
COFFEE SHOP



JD. 5.500pp

Saturday

INDIAN NIGHT
ENJOY
OUR DELICIOUS
INDIAN
BUFFET
SPECIALLY
MADE

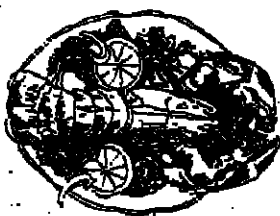


FOR
YOU

JD. 6.000pp

Sunday

LOBSTER NIGHT
At the
ANDALUSIA



Seafood Hors D'Oeuvres
Lobster Imperial
Strawberry Pancakes
Coffee & Petit Fours

JD. 8.000pp

Monday

PRIME RIB NIGHT
at the
COFFEE SHOP



Prime Rib,
Yorkshire Pudding
Baked Potato
Garden Peas
Followed by
Apple Pie & Cream
JD. 4.500pp

Tuesday

SHRIMP NIGHT:
at the
ANDALUSIA



SEAFOOD Cocktail
Grilled Shrimps
or
Shrimps with
Spinach Souffle
Fresh Summer Fruits
Coffee & Petit Fours
JD. 8.000pp

Wednesday

Spanish Speciality
Paella Night
at the
COFFEE SHOP
VEGETABLE & SAFFRON SOUP
SEAFOOD PAILLA
WITH GREEN SALAD



Sweets from our Buffet
JD. 4.500pp

Thursday

SEAFOOD NIGHT
at the
ANDALUSIA
Set Menu
or
ALA CARTE



Every THURSDAY
JD. 8.000pp

RESERVATIONS - Amman Plaza Hotel Telephone No. 674111

Trusthouse Forte Hotels

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975

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Peace with honour

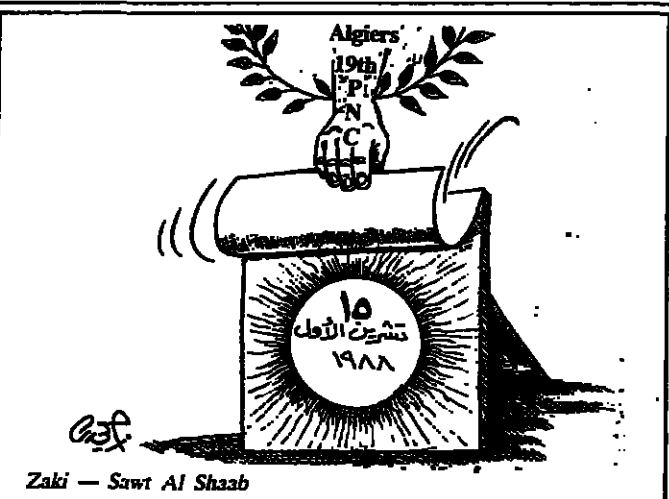
IRAQI President Saddam Hussein's offer to Iran that Iraq was ready and able to sign a peace treaty with Iran in ten days sets the right tone for peace in the Gulf which the Tehran government must not let slip away. "We advise them (the Iranian government) to take a peace decision. Then we can reach an understanding in a few sessions and everything will be over," President Saddam Hussein was quoted as saying Monday.

In more than one way Iraq is correct in saying that the principle stumbling block that has prevented the peace talks between the two countries from moving forward is the absence of a peace decision by Iranian leaders. Every issue that divides the two countries could become insoluble as long as the Iranian regime refuses to entertain a peace state of mind conducive for genuine negotiations that could lead to a lasting and honourable peace agreement between the two sides. That is why the Iraqi offer of peace is so important and requires a reciprocal gesture from the Iranian side.

Further more, the Iraqi offer of peace is not fictitious, illusory or devoid of substance. When President Hussein says in no unclear terms that "irrespective of the legal situation of the Shatt Al Arab, navigation would be accessible for both sides," and that in the context of a peace agreement between Iraq and Iran, Iran would be assured navigational rights in that water way, his words are the words of a leader who genuinely seeks an honourable accommodation with Tehran.

The full implications of such words of peace can best be gauged in the context of the deadlock that emerged between Baghdad and Tehran over sovereignty rights over the Shatt Al Arab.

Iraq is obviously extending an olive branch to Iran. It would be most unfortunate if the Iranian authorities turned down another opportunity to break the deadlock in the talks between the two sides.



Zaki - Sawt Al Shaab

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i daily on Wednesday commented on the proclamation of the independent Palestinian state and said that it is a true embodiment of Jordan's national stand and the Kingdom's support for the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. The paper said that Jordan's support for the PLO and the Palestine National Council which made the proclamation, is represented in Amman's announcement of its recognition of the Palestinian state and the U.N. resolutions which support the right of the Palestinian people to their own homeland. Jordan which earlier decided to sever legal and administrative ties with the West Bank in response to the PLO's desires and demands, has been paying the way for the Palestinian people to take matters into their own hands and assume responsibility towards their own future, the paper noted. The Algiers proclamation of an independent Palestinian state, the paper added, can be regarded as a manifestation of the PLO's orientation and the move was tantamount to a call on various nations to embark on steps that would help the Middle East enjoy peace and security and help the Palestinians determine their own future on their own homeland.

A columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily calls on the government to re-examine the recent decision of imposing more permit fees on non-Jordanian domestic maids and keeping to a minimum those fees levied from the non-Jordanian workers employed in the country. Salah Abdul Samad says that new increases on work permits for maids will make it difficult for women to go out to work because they will eventually have to stay at home doing the housework and looking after the children once they dispose of the maids whose high permit fees they cannot pay. Many of these working women are nurses who will also be forced to give up their jobs for the same reason, thus leaving the field for imported nurses who not only get higher wages than their Jordanian colleagues but also are in a position to transfer greater amounts of hard currency to their home countries, the writer notes. He says that since the country is in increasing demand of nurses it is advisable to re-examine the recent decision and to make nursing a more attractive profession for Jordanian women.

Al Dastour newspaper commented on Jordan's recognition of the independent Palestinian state and said that it was consistent with the Kingdom's constant backing for the Palestinians and their endeavours to regain their rights. Jordan, the paper noted, supports the Palestinians' right to self-determination; and by severing ties with the West Bank, it has opened the way for such a move and the creation of a Palestinian state. The paper echoed the Jordanian official announcement that it will continue to extend all possible assistance to the Palestinians to help them attain their aspired goals. Perhaps the great welcome for the Palestinian state from numerous nations will pave the way for a meaningful action on the part of the world community to take serious steps to end the Arab-Israeli conflict and bring about peace to the Middle East.

The following is the first part of a two part series on global issues taken from the book: **Winning the Human Race**, the final report of the Independent Commission on International Humanitarian Issues that His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan launched last month during visits to London and Paris.

"I believe that man will not merely endure. He will prevail."

William Faulkner, 1950

THE astronaut's vision of our small and fragile planet confirmed for the first time through the human eye what the mind had long known and what the manifold interconnections of human activity across the globe daily demonstrate: the nations of the world are inseparably linked. It is generally recognised that global issues can only be dealt with multilaterally, through the combined action of governments, international and regional organisations and, probably most important of all, the peoples immediately affected. However, global problems do not necessarily have global solutions. Every region and every culture has its own specificity. While some of today's most pressing problems — the population explosion, the deteriorating environment, the growing poverty in the Third World, the proliferation of mass destruction weapons, terrorism and drug abuse — require the cooperation of governments as well as a multitude of institutions and individuals across the world, their particular solutions may call for differing treatment. A humanitarian response to the great issues of our time recognises both their global nature and the need for flexibility in approach.

In order to avoid duplication with the work of existing organisations at national and international level on the global issues dealt with in this chapter and in view of the limited mandate and time available to our Commission, we did not examine these issues in depth. However, for the purpose of highlighting their humanitarian complications and with a view to presenting a comprehensive picture of the human condition, we felt it would be useful to flag some of the global issues of relevance to our work. The following paragraphs of our Report should be viewed in that light.

Population

FEW contemporary issues have as far-reaching humanitarian implications as the problem of world population growth. At the beginning of this century, our planet had less than two billion people. Today it supports over five billion and is expected to sustain over six billion by the end of the century. Although the world's population increases by more than a million every five days, the rate of increase is slowly diminishing. However, the decline in the rate of world population growth is distorted and deceptive. The fall has occurred almost exclusively in China and the developed countries. Ironically, birth rates remain high in countries which can least afford big populations. As mortality rates continue to come down and the number of women entering childbearing age grows, the world population is expected steadily to increase to almost ten billion before it stabilises.

The pattern of world population growth, which has important humanitarian implications, is likely to remain uneven. According to the United Nations, more than 90 per cent of the expected increase between 1980 and 2025 will be concentrated in developing countries. The greatest expansion is projected to be in

Africa whose 1980 population of 476 million is expected to more than triple by 2025. By then the populations of Latin America and South Asia are expected to have almost doubled, that of East Asia to have increased by 43 per cent, those of North America and the Soviet Union to have grown by 38 per cent, but that of Europe by only 9 per cent. By the year 2025, 83 per cent of the world's population will be living in Asia, Africa

"It is estimated that our planet possesses enough food, minerals and energy resources to sustain life at an adequate level for at least 10 billion people — twice the present world population."

and Latin America.

The already difficult task of national development is being made increasingly arduous for many countries by continuing high rates of population growth. This is bound to exacerbate further existing economic and social strains.

The prospect of future population growth will inevitably coincide with changing age structures heavily weighted towards the young in developing countries. In some, as much as 50 per cent of the total population is already under 15 years of age, compared to about 20 per cent in developed countries. By the end of the century, the population under 30 years old will increase by over 500 million in developing countries and constitute 60 per cent of the population.

The increasing number of young people, especially in developing countries, has made it considerably more difficult to meet their basic needs. Although many children engage in economically productive work in the developing world, a relatively small percentage of the adult population bears primary responsibility for feeding, clothing, housing and educating them. As a result, millions of children, the most vulnerable segment of the global community, are neglected, abandoned and forced to fend for themselves.

But the problems are not all likely to occur with the burgeoning number of young people. As health care improves and mortality rates decline, the number of elderly people (age 65 and over) continues to grow. By the end of the century, the world's elderly population will increase by 43 per cent. Over 70 per cent of this increase will occur in developing countries. Although the elderly will account for only 5 per cent and 13 per cent of the developing and developed countries' populations respectively, there is an emerging fear that the cost of caring for the elderly will become overly burdensome. Traditional support for the unique social, economic and medical needs of the aged has already begun to erode, as struggling young populations place greater demands on relatively limited resources. Unless comprehensive forward-looking programmes are designed and implemented to enable the elderly to be independent and productive in their latter years, this clash of priorities will

We shall overcome

only worsen. Moreover, in the developed countries, the quality of life and medical care have ensured longevity. At the same time, the population growth of many of these countries is stagnant. Caring for the aged is bound to strain the welfare state, engendering new humanitarian problems. While populations in the North will be ageing, the populations in the South will be getting younger. This imbalance will have its own repercussions on North-South relations.

In order to introduce some balance in the uncontrolled growth in the population of developing countries, programmes to encourage greater use of family planning seem not only desirable but essential, as the countries most seriously affected have themselves acknowledged. However, it is important that these programmes only take place with the agreement and cooperation of the individuals involved. Greater emphasis on education and training about family planning is required. Moreover, there is now a general recognition that poverty is a prime cause as well as an effect of excessive population growth. Poor people tend to have larger families as a form of socio-economic insurance. Population policies must therefore go hand in hand with development programmes designed to raise the incomes of the poor, literacy levels and the status of women.

One specific aspect of the disparities in wealth and population increases between the North and the South is the increasing movement of populations from the poor countries to the rich. Although the numbers of people moving to the North is relatively

small, they are already straining the absorption capacity of the receiving countries. This, in turn, is leading to the emergence of xenophobia and increased social tensions. This phenomenon needs to be studied not only in terms of national economies and labour markets but also in the context of its social and humanitarian implications. Above all, there is a need to address the root causes of these population movements and to develop imaginative long-term policies which fully take into account the humanitarian aspects.

The problems of over-population and rapid population increase are largely being left for future generations to tackle. Many parts of the world are faced with the continuing prospect as well as already existing reality of widespread hunger and poverty, massive unemployment, rapid urban growth and environmental degradation.

Although more food is being produced globally than ever before, more people are chronically malnourished than at any previous time. Yet it is estimated that our planet possesses enough food, minerals and energy resources to sustain life at an adequate level for at least 10 billion people — twice the present world population.

Environment

THE RAPID growth of the world's population is also causing damage to the environment. Among the ecological stresses associated with overpopulation are overgrazing, depleting fish stocks, deforestation, soil erosion, desertification and the loss of

unique species. Over one-third of the world's arable land is threatened by desertification, a subject dealt with later in this Report. The demand for water is growing at a greater rate than the world's population due to expanding agricultural, industrial and domestic use. In the near future, water shortages are expected to become increasingly frequent, particularly in urban areas.

Efforts are called for to contain erosion, increase water retention and replant forests in order to meet estimated needs by the end of the century. Conservation measures, long-term planning and adequate allocation of resources are necessary. Grave damage to the earth's life-support system has already occurred and will escalate unless well-planned measures are taken. However, governmental responses to date have been disappointing.

Damage to the environment occurs not only because too many people are concentrated in a given location but also because they are struggling to survive. A substantial amount of environmental destruction takes place out of sheer human necessity coupled with ignorance. That ignorance is not only the property of those people living and struggling to survive at the very margins of existence. Damage has also been inflicted on the environment by industrialised societies which have tended to ignore the ecological consequences of their actions. In the long term, the result affects us all, rich and poor alike.

Atmospheric pollution caused by the use of fossil fuels, the clearing and burning of forests, and intensive agricultural prac-

tices involving pesticides and other synthetic chemicals, threatens to harm the environment irreparably. Scientists estimate that a build-up in the atmosphere of certain carbon, nitrogen and chlorine compounds will change the earth's climate over the next 50 to 75 years than has happened over the last 15,000 years — the so-called greenhouse effect. Scientists are also increasingly expressing concern about the depletion of the ozone layer due to extensive use of chlorofluorocarbons. Temperature and rainfall patterns may be affected worldwide, the level of the seas may rise and the earth's eco-systems be upset in unpredictable ways. The annual cost of such a climatic change could approach 3 per cent of the world's gross economic output, perhaps cancelling the benefits of economic growth.

Our abuse of the environment has now reached beyond the atmosphere to litter space with technological debris. Ultimately human-beings and the soil of their planet are one common clay. It would be tragic if global destruction, rather than attention to global needs or acceptance of global fellowship, were to bring that realisation home.

We recognise that this brief account of environmental problems does not do justice to a subject which has important implications for us and for future generations. We direct attention to the detailed studies of the humanitarian aspects of desertification and deforestation which have been carried out by our Commission as well as the 1987 Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development.

Promise of a brighter world

Winning the Human Race?

The Report of the Independent Commission on International Humanitarian Issues

Zed Books Ltd. (London and New Jersey), 220 pp., 1988.

Reviewed by Waleed Sadi

THE FINAL REPORT of the Independent Commission on International Humanitarian Issues (ICHI) released in October is a sincere effort to put ethical and moral flesh on the skeleton of existing body of humanitarian ethos and guidelines. In more than one dimension, the endeavours and recommendations of this worthy body, co-chaired by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, emulate the qualities and function of the phenomenon of "equity" in jurisprudence. It will be recalled that in its broadest significance, "equity" denotes the spirit and habit of fairness and justice. The essence of the Commission's report, like the function of "equity" in jurisprudence, is the synonym of natural right and justice, and its obligation is ethical rather than juridical. In other words, the precepts of the Commission's work are the tenets of the conscience rather than the sanctions of existing positive law. In its cumulative sense, the report of the Commission seeks to elevate the level and scope of man's concern for fellow man and

humanise global issues, and the forces of change as well as make armed conflicts, whether domestic or external, and disasters, whether man-made or natural, more ethically and morally checked and managed. The report treats at length the urgent need to inject humanitarianism into the treatment and defence of the vulnerable groups of humanity be they the young, street children, the uprooted in the form of refugees or displaced persons, or mass expulsions, or neglected indige-

BOOK REVIEW

nous peoples or the disappeared. In all these concerns and pursuits the thoughts of Mahatma Gandhi to the effect that "all humanity is one undivided and indivisible," and those of John Locke to the effect that "wherever law ends, tyranny begins," run deep.

To be sure, it was Prince Hassan who inspired this whole ethical exercise and moral reawakening by calling in a historic speech before the United Nations General Assembly in 1981 for a New International Humanitarian Order. It was in 1983 that the Independent Commission was established on the ashes of centuries of dire neglect of humanitarian and moral pursuits in man-to-man relations and his environment. What emerged from the deliberations of the Commission was a body of conclusions and recommendations most appealing to the mind and heart of humanity at large.

The direct purpose of these conclusions and recommendations is to fill the critical gaps that permeate existing international, regional and national instruments

and institutions governing humanitarian issues. The ultimate objective of the judgments of the commissioners is to help elevate the moral and ethical criteria in state action or inaction in all endeavours touching man. In more than one way, the recommendations of the Commission emulate the spiritual message of the Ten Commandments. Yes, one may say that that the proposed code of conduct proposed by the collective wisdom of the 29 commissioners is a contemporary universal spiritual and moral ideology that should determine the New Order on our planet Earth and beyond. It is therefore tantamount to a giant civilisational leap forward to prepare mankind to the futuristic centuries when the concept of global community will assume greater and deeper importance and relevance. An immediate offshoot of this projected new global state of mind and heart will be the rise of ever more multilateralism and the trimming of the edges of traditional and classical sovereignty.

In specific terms, the final act of the Commission recommends the establishment of Independent National Commissions the mandate of which would be to fill the gaps in existing national legislations and institutions dealing with humanitarian issues.

As humanitarian issues and human rights overlap and coincide on many dimensions, as indeed the Commission has noted, it would be also in order to strengthen human rights observance at the national, regional and international levels.

On the United Nations level, the Commission envisions the creation of a U.N. Central Office for Humanitarian issues on par with the U.N. Centre for Human

Rights. In view of the financial constraints beleaguering the U.N. system at the present time such an office could be attached or linked with existing U.N. departments linked directly to the office of the secretary general of the U.N. It must be borne in mind that such a function is no less important than human rights as a principal concern for the U.N. system. And such a central office would deal not only with humanitarian law applicable to armed conflicts but also with the so-called "Law of Peace" relating to human welfare not related to war and war-like conditions.

The deliberations of the Commission, which found expression in the recommendations and conclusions, covered a broad spectrum of global issues affecting man and his welfare.

In conclusion, I recommend that the report of the Independent Commission be widely disseminated in Jordan and elsewhere in the Arab World. The commissioners co-chaired by Crown Prince Hassan have laboured for many years and their wisdom must be made available to all of us. Sincere words of gratitude and appreciation are certainly due to all the commissioners who participated so diligently and wisely in the deliberations of the Commission especially to Prince Hassan and Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan who played such a central role in making the Commission a continuous reality and success.

Pakistan polls

(Continued from page 1)

reports indicated slightly more than 50 per cent of the nation's 48 million eligible voters cast ballots.

No significant results were expected until Thursday.

About 7,000 people had assembled in front of the Bhutto villa in the southern city of Lahore two hours after the polls closed, chanting "Long live Bhutto" and "Benazir, the prime minister." Bhutto was inside monitoring election results phoned in by party representatives, who said she would easily win her home district's assembly seat as expected. Earlier in the day, she toured polling stations and said she believed things were going "very well."

Meanwhile, former Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo, a leader of the IDA, was at his home in Sindri district with about 20 supporters to follow the results.

"It's a tough contest. It's a very good contest," Junejo told the AP.

Elsewhere in Pakistan, army troops filed sandbagged bunkers and cruised the streets in armoured personnel carriers in the southern cities of Hyderabad and Karachi, where almost 300 people died in ethnic strife in September. Other urban streets and rural roads were patrolled by police.

The vote marked Pakistan's first National Assembly election open to political parties since 1977.

Alfredo G. Rosario,
Labour Attache,
Philippine Embassy,
Amman.

LETTERS

Save the railway

To the Editor:

THE END of the 19th century witnessed the birth of the Hijaz Railway that served to carry pilgrims from all over the Ottoman Empire to the holiest of all Muslim places, Mecca. It was said that Jordan was stripped of its trees to build this railway.

The end of the 20th century may well see the death of this institution!

Many attempts were made during the last two decades to revive the railway, and run regular services linking Amman with cities to the north. I remember, as a child, going with my parents on a 9 hours journey from Amman to Damascus. I can still feel the exhilaration of the little boy leaning out of the window watching the giant engine puff and puff along a track lined with curious children waving and screaming their own brand of "Marhaba".

More recently, the tired engines have been taking Jordanians and tourists alike on joy rides through the south of the country. It has helped raise funds for various charities. It now needs charity itself. I understand that one of their engines was recently

sold and will be put on display in one of our universities, and I am afraid that this is just the beginning.

I appeal to all those who care about traditions and wish to help preserve institutions that played a major role in the daily life of our fathers to stand up and be counted. The Hijaz Railway need to maintain several old passenger carriages and some unique steam engines; they need to keep up their stations scattered along the line all the way to Ma'an; they need your moral and financial support.

If there are enough of you out there who are willing and able to help, we might even form a club that will work with the railway administration to keep the line rolling. Please write to me if you are interested (See feature on page 5).

Munir Y. Nassar,
P.O. Box 408,
Amman.

Clarification

To the Editor:

THIS is with reference to the letter of Mr. Joel A. Martin titled

"Confusing" appearing in the Nov. 13 issue of the Jordan Times. I would like to thank Mr. Martin, firstly, for his evident concern over the well-being of his fellow-Filipinos working in Jordan and, secondly, for touching on such a topical issue as the recently-concluded manpower agreement between Jordan and the Philippines as this enables us to clarify certain misconceptions about the agreement.

For instance, Mr. Martin said in his letter "that the signed agreement was after all only the memorandum of agreement the two governments reached in 1981. Meaning, an agreement in force but not implemented for reasons worth asking about." This conclusion is inaccurate based obviously on an erroneous report.

What was signed by Labour Minister Marwan Dudin and his Philippine counterpart, Labour Minister Franklin M. Drilon, was an upgraded bilateral labour agreement conceived and provided for in the Memorandum of Understanding concluded between the two countries in 1981. It expanded on the scope of and improved upon the Memorandum which contained the general principles establishing the pre-

mis for the protection and welfare of Filipino workers in Jordan, and of Jordanian workers in the Philippines, if any.

The recently-signed agreement spells out in forthright terms the rights and obligations of both worker and employer. Among the features of the agreement that are beneficial to Filipino workers are:

1. The employer undertakes to pay for the travel expenses of the worker from his residence in his home country to his work place and the return travel expenses upon termination of the employment contract, and in case of cancellation of the contract unilaterally by the employer, or unsatisfactory performance of the worker during the probation period. The worker pays for his return ticket if he unilaterally quits his job.

2. If the contract has expired or been cancelled with the consent of both parties, the worker can search for another job within 30 days and in accordance with effective Jordanian laws and regulations. The employer undertakes to protect the rights of the worker and meet his travel expenses back to his residence in case the worker cannot find

another job and conclude an employment contract.

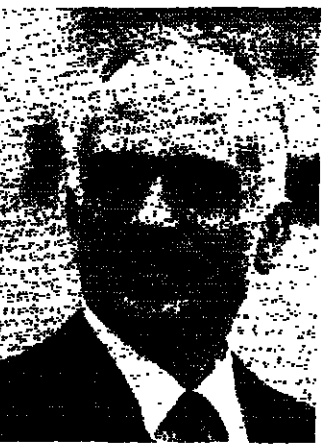
3. The guest workers shall benefit fully from the rights and privileges accorded to the workers of the host country in accordance with the provisions of the labour and social security laws in the concerned country.

But the agreement is more than just the fine print. The signing provided an opportunity for both countries to renew their expressions of mutual respect and trust. Minister Drilon said it served to strengthen the bonds of friendship between them.

The whole moral point of the signing was highlighted in the remark made by Minister Dudin when he said that while it was the right of Jordan to regulate the inflow of foreign workers; it was its duty to make them feel welcome once they are accepted by the country. Which means that they should be treated fairly and justly just like any Jordanian. Filipino workers should take heart from such reassuring statement.

EN BREF

Les 53 ans du Roi Hussein



La Jordanie a fêté le 14 novembre le 53ème anniversaire de S.M. le Roi Hussein. Dans tout le pays, cet événement a été marqué par de nombreuses manifestations d'attachement au souverain hachémite, proclamé roi de Jordanie le 11 août 1962, à l'âge de dix-sept ans. Le Roi Hussein a cinq fils: le Prince Abdallah (né en 1962), le Prince Faïçal (1963), le Prince Ali (1975), le Prince Hamzah (1980), le Prince Hashem (1981) et six filles: la Princesse Alia (1956), les Princesse jumelles Zein et Aisha (1968), la Princesse Haya (1974), la Princesse Iman (1983) et la Princesse Rayyah (1986). Il a épousé S.M. la Reine Noor le 15 juin 1978.

La Banque mondiale soutient la Jordanie

Le président de la Banque mondiale, Barber Conable, a déclaré le 14 novembre à Amman que la dette extérieure jordanienne était bien équilibrée et stable, et qu'il n'y avait pas lieu de remettre en cause les prêts accordés au Royaume, ajoutant que la Banque mondiale soutenait les décisions gouvernementales visant à raviver l'économie jordanienne. M. Conable a précisé que la Banque avait souvent affaire à des situations d'endettement bien plus graves que celle de la Jordanie, ajoutant: "Je ne crois pas que l'on puisse parler de crise à ce stade."

Goncourt en caoutchouc

Le prix Goncourt, le plus prestigieux des prix littéraires français, a été attribué le 14 novembre à Erik Orsenna pour "L'exposition coloniale" (ed. Le Seuil), un roman qui relate la longue épopée du caoutchouc, de la forêt amazonienne aux grandes bourses européennes. Erik Orsenna est à la fois écrivain et haut fonctionnaire, membre du Conseil d'Etat. Le prix Renaudot a pour sa part été décerné à l'écrivain haïtien René Despreux pour son roman "Hadriana dans tous mes rêves".

Vous écrivez?

"Le Jourdain" recherche des collaborateurs ayant des idées originales d'enquêtes et reportages, en free-lance. Contacter le Jourdain Times et demander François Ducroux.

On y cultive des céréales et des fruits

Wadi Rum, verte vallée, grenier à blé de la Jordanie

Grâce à des nappes d'eau souterraines récemment redécouvertes, le Wadi Rum devient lui aussi une région agricole. Le gouvernement oriente la production en donnant priorité aux céréales et en cherchant à éviter des productions qui feraient de l'ombre aux petits exploitants de la vallée du Jourdain.

Le Wadi Rum, grenier à blé de la Jordanie? Il ne faut pas se fier aux apparences: au-dessous de ces rochers brûlés de soleil, de ces paysages lunaires balayés par le sable, l'eau dort. Des nappes souterraines ont été découvertes au début des années soixante et on y cultive aujourd'hui de l'ail, du blé, des oignons et même des pastèques. La région du Wadi Rum ne compte pas moins de 38 puits qui alimentent notamment la ville d'Aqaba en eau douce. Amman pourrait même utiliser ces sources pour sa consommation, selon des experts en irrigation.

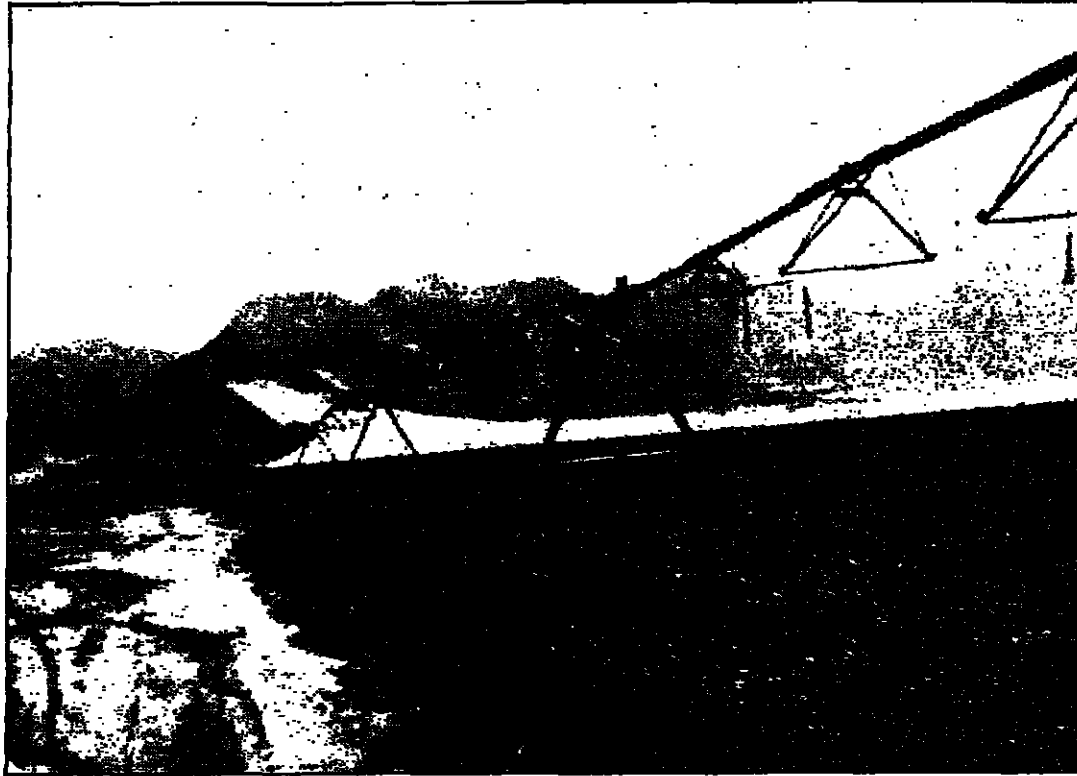
Longtemps, on a cru que cette région aride du sud avait toujours été fréquentée par les seuls tribus nomades. Mais la découverte, en 1979, d'une abondance de dessins et inscriptions dans les rochers du désert méridional a renversé l'évidence: ceux qui les avaient gravés il y a 2.000 ans vivaient en communautés sédentaires. Et ils étaient nombreux.

Aujourd'hui, une poignée d'entrepreneurs privés tente à nouveau de donner à cette région inhospitalière le visage d'une verdoyante vallée où s'épanouissent vergers et troupeaux... Mais pour avoir le lait et le miel, il faut d'abord suer sang et eau. Tout commence il y a 20 ans, avec le projet agricole gouvernemental d'Al Disi. On creuse des puits, on installe les infrastructures de base. Puis, au début des années 1980, l'Etat se retire et laisse la place au secteur privé, jugé plus dynamique.

Retourner, arroser

Afin d'attirer les sociétés agricoles, le terrain est cédé en location-vente, à des conditions très stimulantes: pendant une période pouvant aller jusqu'à 25 ans, les exploitants versent 10 fils par dunum (10 dunums environ = 1 hectare) et par an à l'Etat. Ces facilités leur sont accordées à conditions qu'ils établissent des projets sur des surfaces d'au moins 5.000 dunums et qu'ils en assurent chiffres en main le financement. But de l'opération: augmenter la production jordanienne de céréales et de viande maigre, très demandées, et à terme aider le royaume à assurer son auto-suffisance alimentaire, conformément au plan quinquennal 1986-1990. Au ministère de l'Agriculture, on souligne aussi le bénéfice technologique qu'une telle expérience peut apporter au pays en matière de savoir-faire agricole.

La Rum Agricultural Company



Système d'arrosage mobile: on utilise les nappes d'eau souterraines du Wadi Rum (photo Salameh Ne'matt)

fut l'une des premières à relever le défi. Acquéreuse de 50.000 dunums, elle en exploite déjà plus de la moitié de puis 1986 à Manasir et à Suwayan. "La tâche était beaucoup plus lourde qu'il n'y paraissait à première vue", se souvient Iyad Abu Ali, directeur adjoint de la ferme. "Il a fallu améliorer les puits, les équipements et les hangars de stockage". Avant toute chose, il faut retourner la terre au bulldozer sur une profondeur de 1 m 50. Puis le sol est "rincé" afin de le désaliniser. Alors seulement, on peut planter et arroser.

Au cœur du système d'irrigation, les vaporeurs d'eau mobiles. La R.A.C. en utilise 38, qui couvrent chacun 50 hectares de terre cultivée. La Jordan Elec-

tricity Authority fournit le courant nécessaire à leur fonctionnement. La compagnie cultive aujourd'hui du blé sur 15.000 dunums et revendique une récolte de 4,6 tonnes par hectare en 1987. Elle espère hisser sa productivité à 7 tonnes l'an prochain. La RAC a produit cette année 7.000 tonnes de blé environ. Son capital est de 6 millions de dinars et elle emploie 150 personnes dans le sud jordanien.

Comble du paradoxe, l'Etat craint la menace possible que représente la production à grande échelle du Wadi Rum pour les petits exploitants de la vallée du Jourdain. Interdiction donc de cultiver concombres et tomates dans le désert... On oriente le Wadi Rum sur des cultures com-

plémentaires, qui devraient réduire la dépendance du royaume vis-à-vis de la Syrie, de l'Egypte, du Liban et de la Turquie.

A cet égard, l'éventail de cultures possibles est encore très large. La RAC n'exclut pas de planter dans un futur proche des haricots, du soja ou des carottes. John Camp, chef de production, explique qu'il suit de très près l'évolution du marché afin d'anticiper d'éventuelles pénuries ou renchérissement de tel ou tel produit, qui pourrait devenir un "crâneau" pur la RAC. "Nous essayons de tirer avantage de la situation exceptionnelle du Wadi Rum, où l'ensoleillement permet des saisons de cultures beaucoup

plus longues qu'ailleurs", dit-il. On pourrait presque y rêver de fraises en hiver et d'oranges en été...

Revers de la médaille

Mais la médaille a son revers. Témoin la crise de la pomme de terre sur les marchés mondiaux, qui a obligé la RAC à réduire sa production de 35% cette année. Les prix de la pomme de terre avaient chuté de 170 fils le kg à 80 fils le kg, en raison d'une surproduction.

A l'étude, la culture de fruits tels que les pommes, pêches, nectarines, raisin et peut-être abricots. On envisage également de cultiver des produits "stratégiques" comme les haricots et les pois chiches (base du hommos), actuellement importés en quantités massives des pays arabes, africains et de Turquie.

Mais l'activité numéro un de la RAC reste le blé, dont toute la récolte est achetée par l'Etat jordanien. "Nous avons encore une faible influence sur la balance commerciale", reconnaît cependant Miquad Annab, directeur général de la société. On ne change pas la face du monde avec 7.000 tonnes par an et la Jordanie continue à importer massivement du blé.

Et l'exportation? Ne mettons pas la charrue avant les boeufs. Les sociétés exploitant les terres du Wadi Rum essaient d'abord de satisfaire le marché local. "Nous voulons d'abord atteindre ce but; ensuite, nous songerons à exporter", dit Miquad Annab.

Le directeur général se plaint pour l'instant des pesanteurs administratives qui entravent son activité. Selon lui, les lois sur les exploitants agricoles sont adaptées à des entreprises de petite taille. Il cite l'exemple d'un wagon de transport de grain récemment importé par la RAC, qui a dû affranchir 65% de sa valeur en droits de douane, car il était trop gros pour bénéficier de l'exemption accordée aux véhicules agricoles.

Même problème de taxes pour le matériel d'irrigation, importé lui aussi. Des pièces sont restées bloquées 45 jours dans le port d'Aqaba, pour des problèmes de droits de douane, retardant le travail dans le Wadi Rum. Certes, la Jordanie produit du matériel d'irrigation, reconnaît M. Annab, mais leur qualité est insuffisante. Il cite l'exemple des tuyaux de canalisation, inadaptés à l'activité extensive de la RAC, non-reliables, etc.

La RAC en est encore au stade de l'investissement; les vrais profits ne viendront que plus tard. Le bénéfice immédiat est celui de l'expérience: l'utilisation au Wadi Rum de vaporeurs mobiles montre que ce système est applicable partout en Jordanie, pourvu que l'on ait de l'eau et une source d'énergie.

D'après Salameh Ne'matt (J.T.)

Palestine indépendante

Yasser Arafat, président de l'OLP, a annoncé le 13 novembre à Alger la proclamation par le Conseil national palestinien (CNP), 450 membres) de "l'établissement d'un Etat palestinien avec Jérusalem pour capitale".

La déclaration ne précise pas les frontières de cet Etat mais fait référence à la résolution 181 de l'Assemblée générale des Nations-Unies (partition de 1947). Le CNP a par ailleurs approuvé la résolution 242, qui reconnaît implicitement l'Etat d'Israël en affirmant le "droit de tous les Etats de la région à vivre en paix dans des frontières sûres et reconnues". Le PNC exige un retrait des territoires occupés en 1967. Il approuve de plus la résolution 338, qui appelle à une négociation sur la base de la résolution 242 et réclame une conférence internationale pour régler le conflit.

M. Arafat a précisé que le nouvel Etat serait régi par "un système parlementaire démocratique fondé sur la liberté

d'expression et le multipartisme. Au sortir de la conférence, il a posé la première pierre de l'ambassade palestinienne à Alger.

La plupart des pays arabes et islamiques, dont la Jordanie, ont reconnu le nouvel Etat palestinien. Exceptions notables, l'Iran — qui parle d'une "retraite" de l'OLP — et la Syrie, qui a ignoré le CNP. Les dissidents palestiniens basés à Damas ont condamné la résolution du Conseil, notamment qualifiée de "catastrophe" par Abu-Moussa.

Israël a rejeté la déclaration d'indépendance, estimant qu'elle tenait de "l'ambiguïté et du double langage". Les Etats-Unis et de nombreux pays occidentaux, sans reconnaître l'Etat indépendant, ont salué le "pas vers la paix" constitué par l'approbation des résolutions 242 et 338. L'URSS a également applaudi à la déclaration du CNP, sans préciser si elle reconnaissait le nouvel Etat.

FIGURE

Silence, on tourne

C'est à 4 ans que Hassan Abu-Ghanime, animateur du Ciné-club d'Amman, a découvert le grand frisson des salles obscures. Sa mère l'emmenait dans les cinémas d'Irbid, où il devait des yeux les films arabes et américains. Il se souvient aussi de son premier film français, avec le comique Darry Cowl. "Les gens ne comprennent pas cet humour; seuls mon frère et moi étions prêts de rire au fond de la salle", raconte-t-il.

Ce lecteur boulimique, passionné de cinéma, part néanmoins en 1964 étudier la médecine en Roumanie. Mais très vite, il coupe court et opte pour les cours de cinéma. "Là, j'ai découvert le cinéma soviétique, la nouvelle vague française: 'Le mépris' de Godard avec Bardot et Piccoli m'a beaucoup marqué. J'ai réalisé que le cinéma n'était pas seulement un amusement mais aussi un outil culturel", dit Hassan.

En 1969, il rentre en Syrie, "parce qu'à l'époque, la vie culturelle y était plus riche qu'en Jordanie". Il veut faire du cinéma, mais constate que les bons auteurs et metteurs en scène sont déjà nombreux alors qu'il n'y a



Hassan Abu-Ghanime pas de critique spécialisée. C'est ainsi qu'il décide de prendre la plume et couvre le septième art dans les journaux arabes. Revenu en Jordanie en 1977, il est considéré comme un maître en la matière et officie au "Raï". Il travaille actuellement sur une encyclopédie du cinéma arabe, à paraître prochainement. Et surtout il anime depuis un an son ciné-club, en face du journal, qui compte déjà 500 membres et propose 5 films par jour sur grand écran vidéo: grands classiques, mais aussi films récents, arabes et occidentaux (voir programme ci-dessous). Tel: 603901.

SORTIR

Rumors: silence on dort



Très londonien, le pancher à damiers. Très rock, les affiches de rock. Très yankee, le steak américain. Très branché, Rumors. On y croise de célèbres hôtes de l'air, de parfumés chebabs jet-set, de choucroutées Orientales nocturnes. Tout ce beau monde évolue à pas feutrés entre le restaurant américain du rez-de-chaussée et le pub tamisé du premier, qui affiche un illusoire "couples only". Kacem Schoutchi, 26 ans, a voulu faire de ce lieu un rendez-vous du tout-Amman, "où l'on oublie qu'on est à Amman" (?). Style européen, clientèle triée sur le volet, orchestres deux fois par semaine. Il aurait dû prévenir les voisins:

invitant le bruit et l'agitation nocturne préjudiciable à leur sommeil, ceux-ci ont fait en sorte que Rumors abandonne ses prétentions de discothèque. Plus question d'y danser, donc, et couvre-feu sur l'alcool dès 23h30. Sauf cas de force majeure, type Halloween ou nouvel an.

Mais cette restriction n'empêche pas la jeunesse dorée de se presser chez Rumors en foules compactes, en particulier le lundi et le jeudi. L'"Intercon" a du souci à se faire... Rumors, Abdon, ouvert tous les soirs jusqu'à 1h00. Steak restaurant: compter 10 dinars pour un bon repas.

A L'AFFICHE

CONCERT

Sapho 4

La diva orientale du rock-new wave français, avec ses sept musiciens pour un concert unique (voir article ci-contre). Samedi 19 au cinéma Philadelphia.

CINEMA

Pile ou face

De Robert Enrico, avec Philippe Noiret et Michel Serrault (1980): un policier s'interroge sur la disparition mystérieuse de la femme de son meilleur ami. CCF, le 23 mercredi 23 à 20h00 (en français, sous-titré en arabe).

Emi Briest

De R.W. Fasshinder, avec Hanna Schygalla (1974): une femme adultère par désespoir, un mari qui ne non par jalousie mais pour préserver son image publique. Goethe Institut, mardi 22 à 20h00 (en allemand, sous-titré en anglais).

Les enfants du silence

(Children of a lesser god), avec William Hurt et Marlee Matlin (1986): un éducateur tombe amoureux d'une jeune sourde-muette. La communication au-delà des mots. Centre américain, jeudi 17 à 19h00 (en anglais).

Kennedy

A l'occasion du 25ème anniversaire de la mort de J.F. Kennedy, le documentaire "Four days in november" retrace le destin du président américain. Centre américain, mardi 22 à 19h00 (en anglais).

Ciné-club

(Séances respectivement à 13h00, 15h00, 17h00, 19h00, 20h30) Le 17: Doctor Jivago. The connection. Unmarried. Short the moon. I am a woman. Le 18: The survivors. Three guns to Cesar. The elevator. The snake's egg. Frankenstein junior. Le 19: Top secret. The Natural. Midnight cowboys. Ground zero. Eight days. Le 20: Black Sunday. The Beauty. Wicked lady. Mutant. Al-Tawaraj. Le 21: Casablanca. The comeback. Monthly Python et the holly grail. Double man. Les Mandarins. Le 22: The last hard men. The revenge of Nords. Broadway Dory Rose. Under the volcano. A cat on a hot tin roof. Le 23: Arab oil. The sea devil. Carmen. Fantasia. Big chills. Films en version originale. Tel: 603901. Route de l'université, à droite après le bâtiment "Caterpillar", puis à gauche, 300 m.

EXPOSITIONS

Hratch Loulou, cuivres Diplômé des Beaux-Arts à Alep, Hratch Loulou expose ses bas-reliefs orientaux, "pour rendre au cuivre ses lettres de noblesse". CCF, du 21 au 30 novembre.

Romantiques allemands

Exposition de dessins et aquarelles du XIXème siècle. Zaki Al-Raed Al-Arabi, Shamsioui, du 22 au 27 novembre.

TELEVISION

"Nous irons tous au paradis", avec Jean Rochefort, Claude Brasseur, Guy Bedos et Victor Lanoux. D'Yves Robert: Les quatre copains farceurs d'"Un éléphant..." (cf. semaine passée) se retrouvent quelques années avec toujours le même centre d'intérêt: les femmes. Mais ils s'aperçoivent qu'elles aussi savent (tricher et nuire) (JTV, vendredi à 17h30).

France: l'hiver est chaud



Coupures de courant dans tout le pays, trains circulant au ralenti, transports urbains paralysés dans certaines villes de province, les grèves dans le secteur public, qui sont entrées dans leur septième semaine, continuent de perturber la vie économique française, à l'exaspération grandissante de la population et des chefs d'entreprise.

Au-delà des aspirations des salariés du secteur public à sortir de l'austérité salariale imposée depuis 1983, la presse voit dans ces mouvements une "stratégie du harcèlement" du gouvernement socialiste, menée par la grande centrale syndicale pro-communiste CGT (confédération générale du travail).

Cette agitation sociale, dans laquelle les communistes jouent un rôle moteur, s'inscrit dans le cadre de la préparation des prochaines échéances électorales importantes pour le gouvernement socialiste de M. Michel Rocard: les municipales de mars 1989.

Pour sa part, le président du patronat français, M. François Perrot, a demandé au gouvernement des mesures

d'urgence pour aider les entreprises en difficulté et de "tout faire" pour que cessent les grèves.

Dans les postes, après un conflit très dur de plusieurs semaines des transporteurs parisiens, la situation restait confuse mardi. Lundi, la reprise du travail, au moins partielle dans certains garages a permis de dégager 20 millions de plus sur les 120 millions bloqués depuis le début du conflit.

Les cheminots de la Société nationale des chemins de fer (SNCF) ont débrayé mardi, entraînant un ralentissement considérable du trafic sur les réseaux de banlieue des grandes villes et sur certaines grandes lignes.

Air France a été contrainte une nouvelle fois d'annuler six vols mardi, après seize lundi, à la suite de la grève de ses mécaniciens au sol. La production d'électricité que des arrêts de travail, à l'initiative de la CGT, affecte depuis cinq semaines, a été à nouveau perturbée, provoquant des coupures de courant sur tout le territoire.

Elle chante samedi au Philadelphia

Sapho, la touche-à-tout

Sapho, chanteuse rock à la croisée des continents, tourne actuellement au Proche-Orient. Elle joue samedi soir à Amman. Portrait d'une inclassable.

Que fait un journaliste qui doit écrire sur un sujet qu'il ne connaît pas? Il lit les articles d'autres journalistes, qui eux-mêmes, souvent... Force est de constater que sur le cas Sapho, lesdits journalistes rivalisent d'adjectifs flatteurs: tour à tour "diva", "sirène", "vraie nature", "insolite insolente" et carrément "Mecque plus ultra", la chanteuse rock native de Marrakech a su envoûter ses confrères plumeux (car elle est aussi journaliste).

Prompts à coller des étiquettes sur les artistes, ils ont pour une fois été obligés de les laisser dans leurs tiroirs, ou au moins d'en inventer une nouvelle.

On n'hésitait pas, lors de son passage-consécration dans la salle historique de L'Olympia (Paris) en janvier dernier, à l'inscrire dans le sillage d'Edith Piaf et d'Oum Kalsoum, excusée du peu.

Et pourtant, Sapho n'a pas toujours eu droit à l'encensement. Longtemps, elle a traîné comme un boulet une image d'"hystérique", de "punkette de salon qui pense", de "tigresse aux lèvres noires", boudée par la presse rock. Peut-être parce qu'en France, on n'aime pas les personnalités à facettes multiples. On est comédien, chanteur, écrivain, dessinateur ou journaliste, mais pas tout à la fois. Et justement, Sapho avait le tort de cumuler toutes ces cartes de visite, inclassable.

"Pile électrique"

Débarquée en France à quinze ans, elle commence par le théâtre et très vite opte pour la chanson. "Une chanson, ça existe tout seul, tout de suite. Et moi, je ne peux pas attendre, je suis une pile électrique", déclare-t-elle au magazine "Paroles et musique". Son premier disque sort en 1977, en pleine explosion punk. Le journal Actual l'envoie alors en reportage à New-York... où elle monte un groupe rock et rassemble les éléments de son premier roman, "Douce violence".

Très vite, elle va créer et imposer un style où se mêlent ses nombreux coups de cœurs de voyageuse des quatre coins du monde: riffs anglo-saxon, mélodies orientales bien sûr, mais aussi percussions africaines et sud-américaines (elle s'est mariée au Mexique). A l'Olympia, elle n'hésite pas à reprendre une chanson de la papesse égyptienne Oum Kalsoum. Le pari était osé, le résultat fut très convainquant.

Entamée en 1983, sa carrière internationale l'a emmenée aux Amériques, au Japon, en Afrique, et en Europe du Nord. Partout, elle conquiert son public à coups de tendresse violente, d'envoûtements de deviche, de sincère générosité aussi. "J'ai un côté Armée du Salut, dit-elle. Il faut que j'intervienne, que je me sente responsable du monde entier. Je n'ai pas la politesse de ne pas en parler".

"Il faut tout oser", disait-il y a vingt-sept siècles la poétesse grecque dont Sapho a adopté le nom. La touche-à-tout du rock français totalise à son actif neuf disques 33



Sapho: entre Orient et Occident

t., deux romans et un recueil de dessins...

François Ducroux

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India wants to boost cooperation with Jordan

By Ghadeer Taher
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — India's imports of Jordanian phosphates and other fertiliser-related products are expected to reach \$110 million for the year 1988 and New Delhi is stepping up efforts to redress the trade imbalance between the two countries through increasing its own exports to Jordan and securing industrial and construction projects in the Kingdom.

The increase in the total value of Indian purchases of Jordanian products is more as a result of the rise in international prices of phosphates and fertiliser products than an actual increase in quantity.

India, the largest importer from Jordan through the state agency Metals and Minerals Trading Corporation (MMTC), will take 200,000 tonnes of phosphate of potash worth approximately \$20 million by January 1989. This is in addition to 220,000 tonnes already supplied by the Arab Potash Company this year.

The average annual Indian purchase of phosphate of potash from Jordan is around 400,000 tonnes and the 20,000-tonne increase this year is only a part contribution to the increase in the value of the deals, according to A.K. Gandhi, resident manager of MMTC in Amman.

Other products that Jordan exports to India include phosphate derivatives such as diammonium phosphate — 150,000 tonnes in 1988 — and rock phosphates — 1.05 million this year — from the Jordan Phosphates Mines Company (JPMC).

Despite the rise in Indian purchases from Jordan, there is little sign of any significant increase in the Kingdom's imports from the sub-continent, said Gandhi.

"In 1987, Jordan's exports to India amounted to JD 22 million while Indian exports to Jordan were worth only JD 1.43 million," Gandhi told the Jordan Times in an interview.

"In 1988, the gap widened to over \$100 million in favour of Jordan," he noted.

Gandhi stressed that increased efforts had been made and were

"Inroads have been made into the private sector by giving them competitive prices," Gandhi said. "We have penetrated into the fields of food items, surgical equipments and paints — oxides. Once they (Jordanians) find these products acceptable in terms of quality and prices we will increase exports."

"We have also done one or two deals with JPMC for the supply of polypropylene bags, he said. "But in spite of our best efforts, we have been able to manage export contracts worth only \$8 million to \$9 million this year," he said.

According to Gandhi, there is a multitude of Indian products for Jordan to choose from. He cited

tea, coffee, spices, cashew nuts, engineering and chemical products, vegetable oil, tobacco products, fish products automobile parts, etc.

In order to expose Jordanians to these products, India is interested in holding a trade fair in Jordan possibly in September 1989, Gandhi said.

According to Gandhi, the first step towards improving Indian exports to Jordan is identifying the possible market areas. "We were expecting the joint Jordanian-Indian trade committee to meet earlier this month to tackle this issue," Gandhi said. "Unfortunately, the meeting was delayed." The committee, which

was formed in 1986 following the visit to Jordan of the Indian secretary of commerce, met last in March 1987 in New Delhi.

Gandhi said he found the Jordanian government very well receptive to MMTC efforts.

"On the government side, we are stressing through the Ministry of Industry and Trade to see what best we can do to generate exports from India," Gandhi said.

"But, again it depends mainly on the competitiveness of the price, quality of the product etc... there are also other factors under consideration by the Jordanian government but there are delays because of the economic situation in the country."

the country."

"The best way to reduce the trade gap will be the identification of certain projects which the government of Jordan can give to Indian companies through MMTC," he said. "Then they can encourage the private sector in Jordan to buy Indian-made products if they are competitive in price and quality," he said.

Gandhi confirmed that a proposal by India to set up a fertiliser plant — mainly to process phosphoric acid — in Jordan was still alive and contacts were underway between the two sides on this subject.

U.S. trade deficit drops

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The U.S. merchandise trade deficit shrank nearly \$2 billion to \$10.5 billion in September as exports hit a record high, the government said Wednesday.

The 15 per cent improvement from an August deficit revised upward to \$12.3 billion was accompanied by a slight decline in imports from the record high \$39.8 billion posted that month, the Commerce Department said.

Analysts had anticipated the narrowing of the U.S. trade gap in September following a large widening in August in what has been a month-to-month sawtooth pattern most of this year.

Many analysts, however, had hoped for a greater narrowing of the gap to prevent a new raid on the dollar, which fell last week on currency markets over concerns about President-elect George Bush's ability to bring down the trade and budget deficits.

Including the September figures, the trade deficit for this year is running at an annual rate of \$137.2 billion, compared with a record \$170.3 billion last year and \$155.1 billion in 1986.

The 2.2 per cent, or \$700 million, September export increase to a record \$28.2 billion was led almost entirely by higher sales of American autos, data processing and office equipment and chemicals, the Commerce Department said.

Sales of U.S. airplanes, telephone equipment and electrical machinery abroad declined from August.

Americans, meanwhile, bought \$600 million less in manufactured goods — including fewer apparel products and shoes plus less iron and steel — and \$400 million less in oil from foreign producers in September.

Altogether, U.S. imports dropped by \$1.1 billion to \$38.7 billion in September, the government said. But imports of foreign-made autos and auto parts climbed by eight per cent to a monthly high

for the year.

Oil imports fell from an average 7.9 million-barrels per day in August to 7.5 million barrels a day in September. The price also dropped an average 45 cents per barrel to \$14.60. The combination reduced the nation's oil bill to foreign producers from \$3.7 billion in August to \$3.3 billion the following month.

As usual, the United States suffered its biggest deficit with Japan. At \$4.1 billion, however, the gap was \$700 million less than it had been in August and was at its lowest point since January.

The trade gap with Western European countries also fell by more than \$500 million to \$880

million in September. And with the newly industrialised Asian countries — Singapore, Hong Kong, Taiwan and South Korea — it narrowed by nearly \$250 million to slightly less than \$3.1 billion.

But the U.S. deficit position with Canada nearly tripled to \$1.1 billion.

Before Wednesday's report was issued, Larry Chimerine, chairman of the Weta Group, a forecasting firm, said a deficit above \$11 billion could create a new "pounding of the dollar."

The dollar already has dropped in value by about eight per cent against the Japanese yen and six per cent against the Deutsche-mark since early October.

Japanese parliament passes tax reform

TOKYO (R) — Japan's parliament Wednesday passed the country's first major tax reform in four decades, giving the ruling Liberal Democratic Party victory in a 10-year campaign to introduce a sales tax.

The main opposition Japan Socialist Party and the Communist Party boycotted the lower house session in protest against the package, which also reduced income tax across the board.

It was a significant triumph for Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita, won in spite of a stock-market scandal involving top politicians that the opposition used to delay passage of the plan.

"Everything has gone just as Takeshita planned it," said Rei Shiraori, a political analyst at Tokai University.

He said Takeshita had been eager to get the tax reform approved before the condition of ailing Emperor Hirohito worsened.

The sales tax of three per cent on all goods and services will be introduced April 1, 1989, following approval by the upper house of parliament, which is automatic.

Takeshita has said the tax is needed to reduce the tax burden on urban workers and to prepare Japan for big increases in welfare spending as the population ages.

The extra revenue will also be used to help reduce the huge Japanese budget deficit, which for this financial year totals 3,000 billion yen (\$25 billion).

Opponents say the sales tax will put an unfair burden on people with low incomes and lead to unchecked tax increases. But Takeshita pledged the government would make every effort to keep the sales tax rate at three per cent.

"After all this debate in parliament, do you think we would propose an increase in the tax rate?" He told parliament.

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Commodity organisations consider London pullout

LONDON (AP) — International commodity organisations, faced with hefty rent increases, are considering moving their headquarters from London, officials said Wednesday.

The International Sugar Organisation will discuss relocating to Amsterdam, Madrid or possibly London's suburbs at a meeting next week. The International Wheat Council has a similar item on its agenda at a Dec. 11-13 meeting, officials of both bodies said.

The International Coffee Organisation and the International Cocoa Organisation also face huge rent rises for their central London headquarters and are discussing relocating elsewhere, delegates said.

"Certainly we have to look at these different options, but nothing at all is yet solid," said an International Wheat Organisation delegate, who requested anonymity.

But he added: "I don't think many countries would be in favour of such a move."

The sugar and wheat organisations have jointly approached

British Foreign Secretary Geoffrey Howe for government help to remain in London, according to Latin American diplomatic sources who spoke on condition they were not identified.

"Up to now the British have not appeared too worried about the damage a pullout would do to London's prestige as the world's commodity capital," one diplomat said.

The sugar organisation is facing a rent increase next year as high as \$550,000 (\$630,000), equivalent to one-third of its budget. The wheat council's rent still is being negotiated.

The 74-nation coffee organisation, which operates a price-stabilisation agreement between coffee producer and consumer countries, said its rent is being raised 130 per cent, or £800,000 (\$145,000), next year.

The new rent will consume one-sixth of its annual budget, it said.

The cocoa organisation, already under financial strain because of non-payment of dues, is anticipating a similar rent rise.

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INVITATION

On the occasion of
H.M. King Hussein's birthday;
Under the patronage of
H.E. Dr. Muhammad Hammouri

the Minister of Culture and National Heritage, the Dept. of Antiquities has the pleasure to invite the public to visit the archaeological exhibition organised in cooperation with the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago:

AQABA: Port of Palestine and the Storehouse of Hijaz, on the China Sea.
From November 18 - 30, 1988 at the Registration and Research Centre of Dept. of Antiquities on Jabal Amman.
The exhibition will open daily from 10-1 a.m./3-6 p.m.

For group visits please phone 644482.

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

Citibank gets Tunisian business permit

TUNIS (R) — Tunisia has authorised Citibank of the United States to become the first foreign bank to do business in Tunisia. Officials said Wednesday the Tunisian central bank had agreed in principle to allow Citibank to open a deposit bank and that several other foreign banks had also applied for permission to do business in the country. Among them is the Arab Banking Corporation. Until now foreign banks were permitted to operate only off-shore in Tunisia and could accept only 1.5 per cent of their deposits from Tunisian residents. Officials said the decision to authorise foreign banks to trade in Tunisia was taken as part of the government's financial liberalisation plans and to attract foreign capital.

S. Korean exports top \$50b mark

SEOUL (AP) — South Korea's total exports since the start of the year topped \$50 billion, already exceeding the previous annual record of \$47.2 billion set last year, the trade and industry ministry reported Tuesday. The tally compared with \$100 million for 1964 and \$10 billion for 1977. Ministry officials said this year's export total is expected to reach \$59 billion by the end of 1988, which would represent an increase of 25 per cent from last year. They said the country's two-way annual trade is expected to total more than \$100 billion for the first time this year, catapulting the country into the ranks of the 10 largest trading nations in the world. The ministry officials said South Korea's exports now account for more than two per cent of the world's total exports. Exports of electronics, textiles and machinery — the top three export industries — each surpassed the \$10 billion mark, according to industry reports.

Israeli inflation reaches 14 per cent

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel's consumer price index rose by 2.4 per cent in October, the highest increase in six months, the Central Bureau of Statistics said Tuesday. The increase brought the inflation rate for the last 12 months to 17 per cent. Main causes for the rise were a 6.5 per cent increase for housing and a 3.6 per cent increase in food, the bureau said. The consumer price index rose 1.7 per cent in September and 1.6 per cent in October 1987. Since the start of 1988, prices have risen 14 per cent. The rate for all of 1987 was 16 per cent.

Iran agrees to sell oil to Indonesia

NICOSIA (R) — Iran has agreed to sell 30,000 barrels of oil per day to Indonesia and buy paper, rubber and iron sheets in return, Iranian television reported Tuesday. The television, monitored in Nicosia, said the agreement was reached during a two-day visit to Tehran by Indonesia's Energy Minister Ginanjar Kartasamita.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Wednesday Nov. 16, 1988 Central Bank official rates					
	Buy	Sell		Buy	Sell
U.S. dollar	459.0	461.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	371.0	373.4
Pound Sterling	829.0	832.1	Dutch guilder	233.3	234.5
Deutschemark	262.9	264.2	Swedish crown	75.5	75.9
Swiss franc	313.7	315.3	Italian lira (for 100)	35.3	35.5
French franc	77.0	77.4	Belgian franc (for 10)	125.4	126.0

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One Sterling	1.8070/80	U.S. dollar	
One U.S. dollar	1.2310/20	Canadian dollar	
	1.7455/62	Deutschemark	
	1.9680/90	Dutch guilders	
	1.4645/52	Swiss francs	
	36.57/60	Belgian francs	
	5.9600/50	French francs	
	129.5/1298.5	Italian lire	
	123.27/37	Japanese yen	
	6.0770/820	Swedish crowns	
	6.5990/6040	Norwegian crowns	
	6.7450/500	Danish crowns	
One ounce of gold	422.60/423.00	U.S. dollars	

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — The national share market shrugged off bad balance of payments figures to close only marginally easier in subdued trade. The All Ordinaries index was down 0.9 points to 1,522.3.

TOKYO — Share prices rose to a record closing high for the fourth day in a row, boosted by heavy buying in blue chips. The Nikkei index rose 166.71 points, or 0.58 per cent, to a new closing high of 28,996.12.

HONG KONG — Share prices closed little changed after a day of trading focusing on a few second and third-line stocks. The Hang Seng index ended 1.7 points lower at 2,566.88.

SINGAPORE — Prices closed mixed marginally higher over a broad front. The Straits Times index inched up 0.72 points to 998.55. It had gained 3.28 points at midday.

BOMBAY — Prices closed mixed on the exchange after alternate bouts of selling and buying in the absence of sustained institutional support. Associated Cement fell 8.5 rupees to 378.

FRANKFURT — West German banks had bourses were closed for a national holiday. They will reopen Thursday.

ZURICH — Swiss shares closed slightly higher across the board after a hesitant opening. The All Share Swiss index closed 5.2 points higher at 916.6 after opening at 915.7 points.

PARIS — French share prices rose in reaction to the U.S. September trade data, with mostly domestic investors buying blue chips immediately after the figure. The 50-share price indicator rose on the news to post a 1.10 per cent gain from Tuesday.

LONDON — Shares were well down from the day's highs triggered by GEC and Siemens' £1.7 billion bid for Plessey and by U.S. September trade figures. By 1551 GMT, the FTSE 100 index was up 8.6 points to 1,810.9.

NEW YORK — The market fell further by mid-morning with blue chips off sharply. The Dow was off 17 at 2060.

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RAINBOW

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THE WOMAN IN RED



Performances 3:15, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema

NIJOUN

Tel: 675571

THE LOST BOYS



Performances 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema

PLAZA

Tel: 677420

THREE MEN AND A BABY



Performances 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Bayern draws with Stuttgart

MUNICH (R) — Bayern Munich scored two goals in the last 10 minutes to salvage a 3-3 draw with second-placed VfB Stuttgart Tuesday and preserve their three-point lead at the top of the West German First Division. Stuttgart surged off Saturday's humiliating 6-1 defeat at Kaiserslautern, taking the lead in front of a 63,000 crowd in the Munich Olympic Stadium in the seventh minute through Fritz Walter.

Lalonde honoured for helping children

NEW YORK (AP) — Canadian boxer Donny Lalonde, beaten Nov. 7 by Sugar Ray Leonard, was honoured Tuesday for his work in aiding battered children. The 28-year-old, who left home at 15 after four years of beatings by his stepfather, was given the Children's Lifetime award by Family Dynamics, Inc. at a luncheon. Lalonde, of Winnipeg, Manitoba, has established the Donny Lalonde Child Abuse Foundation, which distributes funds to various child abuse organizations in Canada, and he also is a spokesman for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Romania leads chess Olympiad

SALONIKI (R) — Romania decisively defeated Peru Tuesday to take a one-and-a-half point lead after the third round of the Chess Olympiad. China beat fifth seed Yugoslavia with Tianchengye Ye in top form beating grandmaster Predrag Nikolic. Ye won against U.S. grandmaster Larry Christiansen Monday.

Britain proposes to outlaw steroids

LONDON (AP) — The British government announced Tuesday it plans to outlaw the unauthorized use of anabolic steroids, with jail terms and unlimited fines facing importers, dealers and users. In the wake of the scandal surrounding Canadian sprint star Ben Johnson, who was stripped of an Olympic gold medal after testing positive for the muscle-building drug, the government has proposed to make its use illegal, except when authorized by doctors.

Bush is a tennis enthusiast

NEW YORK (AP) — The late U.S. President John Kennedy favoured football and his predecessor Dwight Eisenhower loved golf. Now tennis should get a boost from U.S. President-elect George Bush. U.S. Tennis pro Pam Shriver, who campaigned for Bush, said he is "pretty good, considering how little he plays." "His whole family plays well," Shriver said Monday at the

Virginia Slims Tennis Championships. "One of his sons, Marv, is good enough for me to practise with. Their family doubles are extremely spirited."

U.S. football teams head for USSR

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Universities of Southern California and Illinois will introduce U.S. Football to the Soviet Union when they open their 1989 seasons with the Glasnost Bowl in Moscow. Tuesday's announcement of the Sept. 2 team match-up followed five years of negotiations with the Soviet Union and some intense schedule shuffling by the universities. The game will be played in Dynamo Stadium, a soccer facility that seats about 50,000. If all goes well, the Glasnost Bowl will be held annually, with different participants each year. USC, which is currently unbeaten and atop the Pacific-Ten Conference — the 10 largest football universities in the western United States. Illinois is a member of the Big 10 conference — some of the toughest midwestern university football teams.

Soccer club fires British coach

NICOSIA (AP) — Tommy Cassidy, a former Northern Ireland international soccer player, has been fired in mid-season as coach of the local team Apollon. The club announced Wednesday its committee decided to sack Cassidy for displaying "indifference" and "indecisiveness" in his job. This followed Apollon's last two disastrous appearances in which it conceded nine goals, to drop from top of the table to third place. Cassidy, 38, came to Cyprus in 1983 to play for Apollon as a midfielder. He was signed on as coach two years later, guiding Apollon to the Cyprus league championship in 1986 and as runner up in the next two seasons.

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 1988

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

— As Charted By The Carroll Righter Astrological Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The Moon's numerous aspects will produce a variety of responses: an attraction to unique change, practical organization, overindulgence and tardiness, sympathetic responses to the needy, and sensuality.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Making decisions now regarding future holiday plans will avoid complications later. You feel independent and need personal space.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) You drive a hard bargain and win. Your dreams of self-expression need a plan and a go-getting attitude. Set aside some personal time.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) It's dog eat dog at work over routines and productivity. Stay clear of hassles, and draw back from confusing situations.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) A legal matter is drawn out and inconclusive. Avoid drowning troubles with lavish spending. Stay in touch with a friend.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) You must remain humble if your goal is to succeed. Current health-consciousness is appropriate. Intuition and creativity are strong.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Easy does it. You have been too

hard on yourself and taking on too much. Priorities will come into focus. Don't get overworked.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Don't go off the deep end over a new social interest. Fit activities into a master plan. Keep goals in mind.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Self-expression is peaking. Words and conversation flow easier than usual. Some plans are changed, but you will be able to adapt.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) A fair weather friend is asking for help again. Ask yourself if you truly have the time, energy and resources to respond.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Maintain a forgiving-forget attitude. A favorable financial cycle continues. Your companion needs help handling a family matter.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) You and down have been parting things up most of the day. You are fed up, but take a step back before responding. Intuition is strong.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Your intuition is powerful today. Others are not in the same frame of mind. Remember that you can handle variability which others cannot.

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 1988

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Artists and other creative people will love today. Others may just roll along in the current atmosphere. Reality may be experienced in strange ways. Focus on nature, music and beauty.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Priorities into focus. Feel out a financial arrangement before making a commitment. Pass on trivial affairs for concrete ones.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Avoid a fast talker who has no real bargains. Scrutinize purchases carefully. Contact people you like. Make plans with children.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) The hardest part of the week is over. Make reservations for evening plans early. Clamorous romance is loaded with complications.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) You find a lost item. Family matters predominate. Build a fire under your companion, and go out on the town. Focus on change.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Bury a blind date idea. Such matchmaking may be disappointing. Use understanding to break up an argument. Spend tonight with friends.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) A new contact has you on the edge of

your seat. You are attracted to intrigue, appeal and sensuality. Follow your instincts.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Your easy style attracts others. Popularity is high; decision making is low. Sort out your schedule, and make time. Be yourself tonight.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Preconceived notions cause panic when you don't get your way. Do your own thing. Let others do the same. An invitation comes late.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Take your time. Don't panic when trying to complete a strained schedule. Some things can wait. You have influence over others.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Listen to intuitive ideas. Play your bunnies. A dinner engagement can combine business with pleasure. Your humor influences others.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Get in touch with someone you miss and are missing over. Aim at resolving a problem relationship slowly. Organization is hard.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Relax a bit, and let your personality pour out. Appreciate color, music, art and dancing. You feel loving and protective today.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

A TIME TO LIVE—OR DIE

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ K J 10 4
♥ K 10 9
♦ A Q 7
♣ 8 4 3

EAST
♠ A Q
♥ 7 6 5 3 2
♦ 8 5 2
♣ Q 7 6

SOUTH
♠ 9 8 6 3 2
♥ Q 5
♦ K J 10
♣ A K 5

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass
4 ♠ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Jack of ♠
One of the first things many new players are taught is that, at a suit contract, they should draw the enemy trumps as soon as possible. Wrong! They should consider drawing trumps immediately, but they might have to delay doing so if there are more important matters to attend to.

The auction was routine. With a dead minimum opening bid, South had no intention of going anywhere after partner could make only a limited game-forces in opener's suit.

West made his natural lead of the jack of clubs, won by declarer. A trump finesse lost to the queen, and the defenders persevered with clubs. They now had the setting trick to cash as soon as they won the ace of hearts. Declarer lost two trumps, a heart and a club.

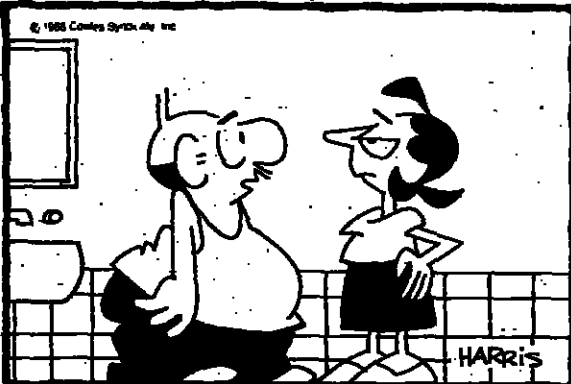
Declarer was a little unlucky in that the trump finesse failed and that the defenders had attacked his weak spot. Still, there was no need for him to subvert willingly to the nefarious designs of his opponents.

More important than drawing trumps was to take care of the club loser—declarer could afford to lose two trump tricks if he could avoid a loser in the other black suit. At trick two declarer should have started setting up a heart trick as a parking place for the club. It makes no difference whether the defenders hold up the ace of hearts or not; declarer will succeed in establishing a long heart while he still has the club suit controlled.

There is a simple way to try to avoid this kind of mistake. Before playing to the first trick, take time out to consider your whole campaign. You will be surprised at the dividends a little planning can produce.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



"Why is it when I spike up my hair I don't look as cool as the kid next door?"

JUMBLE.

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

YEMON
RUPOC
CRUSY
TREMIC



WHAT THE SWINDLER'S POSTURE WAS.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: _____

Yesterday's Jumbles: SCARF, PUPIL, JUNKET, SUBDUE

Answer: What teacher did when the antelope took his final exam—PASSED THE BUCK

THE Daily Crossword by Bernice Gordon

ACROSS

- Chagall
- Pillage
- Madison Ave. figures
- Leigh Hunt
- Vitality
- Oro
- City in Ariz.
- Dodge
- Spot for a nest
- Bonanza
- Outfit
- Fake jewelry
- Phantom's locale?
- Mother's helper
- Max. money
- Caper
- Ent. prof.
- Plunder
- Adjuncts
- Orphan word
- Sp. queen
- Star of "Lois Grant"
- Kind of preview
- Meat pellets
- Goes up
- Speaks disparagingly
- Sheep
- Forage grass
- Range of hearing
- Dr. political assembly
- Suitcase
- Chef's cousin
- Facility
- In any way
- Mountain ridge
- Polka
- Booze of films
- Kind of preview
- Meat pellets
- Goes up
- Speaks disparagingly
- Sheep
- Forage grass
- Range of hearing
- Dr. political assembly
- Suitcase
- Chef's cousin
- Facility
- In any way
- Mountain ridge
- Polka
- Booze of films

DOWN

- Houston and Hein
- Cut short
- Lower demands
- Brifely
- Cockeyed
- Fire
- Bent down to pray
- Semite
- Language
- Opalescent gem
- Blue-pencil
- Sparks and beauty
- Phases
- Upbeat
- Smoothing
- Weather word
- Miles Kett
- Cheese piece
- Entrust
- Long periods
- Tide
- Actress Garr
- Very in music
- Made demands
- Needle-like
- Predictors
- Turk. lion
- Surfresses
- Was furious
- Push
- Solution used in photography
- Musicalian Isaac
- Long tale
- Bar, river to Germans
- Orient language

Miami scores an all time low

NEW YORK (AP) — Miami just barely escaped the records books with its 85-64 loss to the Boston Celtics in a game that saw the third-fewest points scored by an NBA team since 1955.

Miami scored 26 points in the second half Tuesday night, one more than the record low. The expansion team missed 16 of its first 17 shots in the fourth quarter and scored nine points.

"Well, we escaped the record books," Miami coach Ron Rothstein said. "It's tough when you're on defence all the time. They come down and score quickly — it's like a dagger in your heart."

Miami made just 29 of 92 shots, 32 per cent. Pearl Washington was 4-for-20.

Only Buffalo with 63 points on Oct. 21, 1972, and Indiana with 64 on Dec. 10, 1983, scored fewer than Miami in the last 33 years. The record is 57 by Milwaukee on Feb. 27, 1955, the first season of the NBA's 24-second shot shot clock.

In other games, the Los

Angeles Lakers beat Denver 148-146 in double overtime Atlanta edged Cleveland 97-95 Portland defeated the Los Angeles Clippers 125-103, New Jersey beat Charlotte 106-99, New York topped Houston 126-121, Chicago defeated Philadelphia 120-107, Detroit beat Dallas 108-99, Utah out-distanced Indiana 108-96 and Phoenix beat Sacramento 119-90. Lakers 148, Nuggets 146

Magic Johnson made a 3-point shot at the buzzer of the second overtime, giving the Lakers their fourth consecutive victory. Johnson scored three points down the stretch of the first overtime to tie the score at 137. He finished the game with 21 and Byron Scott had 29. Alex English scored 29 points for the Nuggets. Hawks 97, Cavaliers 95. Moses Malone scored 21 points, including Atlanta's final

field goal with seven minutes left. The loss was the first in five games for Cleveland, which matched its best start in 10 years. Trail Blazers 125, Clippers 103. Clyde Drexler scored 26 points and Steve Johnson 20 as Portland ended a three-game losing streak. Danny Manning led the Clippers with 20 points in his second NBA game.

Nets 106, Hornets 99

Joe Barry Carroll scored 21 of his 25 points in the second half. Mike McGee scored 26 points for New Jersey and Kelly Tripucka scored 25 points for the Hornets.

Knicks 126, Rockets 121

Gerald Wilkins scored 30 points, including the go-ahead basket with 1:15 left, giving the Knicks their fifth consecutive victory and snapping Houston's four-game winning streak.

Bulls 120, 76ers 107

John Paxson and Bill Cartwright combined for 13 points during a 15-7 Chicago run to start the fourth quarter. Michael Jordan scored 33 points for the Bulls,

including a jumper that broke a 70-70 tie late in the third quarter. Pistons 108, Mavericks 99

Bill Laimbeer had 23 points and 21 rebounds as Detroit improved to 6-0. Mark Aguirre scored 37 points to lead the Dallas, which rallied in the fourth quarter to cut a 15-point deficit to 101-96 on Aguirre's 3-pointer with 2:36 left.

Jazz 108, Pacers 96

Karl Malone scored 26 of his 36 points in the second half after missing most of the first half because of foul trouble. Malone made 10 of 15 shots for the game and 16 of 17 free throws, matching a career high. Thurl Bailey scored 29 points for Utah. Rik Smits scored 20 points to lead Indiana.

Suns 119, Kings 89

Eddie Johnson scored 27 points as Phoenix won on the road for the first time in four games. Kevin Johnson added 25 points. Sacramento, 0-6. Wat Lerry Kenny Smith with 23 and Derek Smith with 22.

Navratilova defeats Savchenko in opening round of Virginia Slims

NEW YORK (AP) — Martina Navratilova rallied after losing a first-set tiebreaker to beat last-minute replacement Larisa Savchenko in the opening round of the Virginia Slims Tennis Championships Tuesday night.

Navratilova, a Czech-born American who has won the tournament four times, needed two hours to down her Soviet opponent 6-7 (7-9), 6-3, 6-3 at Madison Square Garden.

Navratilova had been scheduled to play American Stephanie Rehe, but Rehe withdrew earlier in the day because of an ankle injury. Savchenko, ranked two spots below Rehe at no. 17, filled in because she was the alternate in the elite 16-player field.

In the first match of the night, seventh-seeded Manuela Maleeva of Bulgaria breezed past Lori McNeil of the United States 6-1, 6-0 in 48 minutes.

Sixth-seeded Natalia Zvereva, the Soviet teen-ager who has beaten Navratilova twice this year, met Helen Kelesi of Canada in the final singles match.

Neither player could hold serve in the first four games of the Navratilova-Savchenko match. There were four more service breaks before they reached the tiebreaker, which Savchenko won on her fourth set point.

Savchenko, who had never

won a set from Navratilova in five previous matches, jumped to a 5-1 lead in the tiebreaker but then made three straight unforced errors.

Navratilova missed a backhand shot to give Savchenko two set points, but a long forehand by the Soviet and Navratilova passing shot made it 6-4.

After missing a third set point with a wide forehand, Savchenko won the next two points and closed out the 55-minute set with a crosscourt backhand.

Navratilova took command in the second set when she broke at 15 to go up 4-2. She finished the set with a love service game that ended when Savchenko metted a backhand.

Navratilova, seeded second in the tournament behind Steffi Graf, got the first break of the final set with a leaping backhand volley in the third game.

Leading 5-3, Navratilova moved to match point on Savchenko's serve and finished off her 22-year-old opponent with a running crosscourt backhand.

McNeil

McNeil, ranked 13th in the world, won just eight points in the second set against Maleeva. "This was the worst, but I can't explain it," McNeil said.



Martina Navratilova, making a point.

Leonard gives up two boxing titles

NEW YORK (AP) — U.S. boxer Sugar Ray Leonard relinquished the World Boxing Council Light Heavyweight and Super Middleweight Titles Tuesday, but did not say he was retiring.

In a letter sent to WBC president Jose Sulaiman of Mexico, Leonard said, "since I don't know my present plans concerning the continuation of my boxing career I have decided to give up both titles."

WBC rules would not allow Leonard to hold both titles, which he won by knocking Donny Lalonde in the ninth round Nov. 7 at Las Vegas.

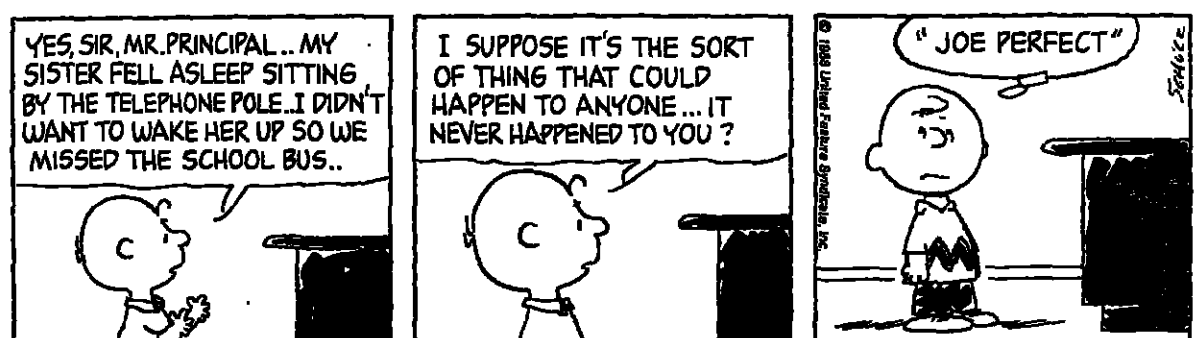
Lalonde had been the light heavyweight 79-kilogramme champion, and

the WBC also allowed the two men to fight for the vacant super middleweight 76-kilogramme title.

"It would be unfair to those highly ranked fighters in either weight division to have to wait for the opportunity to become a WBC champion," Leonard said in the letter released by his office of his attorney, Mervyn Trainer, at Bethesda, Maryland.

The 32-year-old Leonard is the only man to win at least a piece of five world titles. He has come out of retirement three times.

Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



Geneva accord could set Namibia on road to independence

GENEVA (R) — Namibia could next year become the last African colony to gain independence following a Geneva agreement on a timetable for Cuba to withdraw troops from neighbouring Angola.

Delegations from Cuba, Angola and South Africa hammered out a schedule in five days of U.S.-mediated talks for the withdrawal of an estimated 52,000 Cuban troops from Angola.

The undisclosed timetable will, if it is approved by the governments in Havana, Luanda and Pretoria, clear the way for implementation of a 1978 United Nations blueprint for Namibia's transition to independence from Pretoria.

Officials said on Tuesday interlocking treaties on a staged and total Cuban withdrawal and Namibian independence could be

signed soon in the Congolese capital, Brazzaville.

They said no date had been set for the signing, but Angolan chief negotiator General Antonio dos Santos Franca, known as "Nda-lu," said: "It will have to be soon."

Delegates said they were not authorised to make the final decision in Geneva, but their governments had been kept informed throughout the talks and knew what was coming.

"I am sure this will be dealt with expeditiously," said South African chief negotiator Neil van Heerden.

Cuban chief negotiator Carlos Aldana said Havana was ready to repatriate its troops. "It is time," he said.

Negotiators celebrated the adoption of their draft and the end of seven months of talks on three continents with champagne in a chandelied conference room at their hotel.

Martti Ahtisaari, the U.N. special representative for Namibia, said implementation of the independence plan known as Resolution 435 could begin within six to eight weeks of the Brazzaville meeting.

"Resolution 435 provides seven months to prepare for the election of an assembly to draw up an independence constitution and the assumption has always been that independence would follow within five months at the most," he said.

N. Korea calls for talks on easing tensions

SEOUL (AP) — North Korea called Wednesday for urgent political and military talks with rival South Korea on removing U.S. troops and reducing their armed forces to ease tensions on the divided peninsula.

A letter from Lee Gun Mo, North Korea's prime minister, was delivered at the Panmunjom border town site calling for high-level political and military talks in mid-December. It said the talks should be held with "urgency" and could clear the way for a North-South summit.

The letter was delivered to South Korea's prime minister, Lee Hyeon-Jae, on the eve of Thursday's scheduled resumption of talks at Panmunjom of talks between North and South parliamentary delegations on improving relations.

The South Korean Unification Ministry, which oversees the South's policy on reuniting the two Koreas, said the proposal offered nothing new and centred on North Korean attempts to remove American troops from the South.

The North Korean statement made no direct reference to U.S. forces, but said it was seeking dialogue on its Nov. 7

communiqué proposing talks with the United States and South Korea on ending military confrontation.

The Nov. 7 communiqué said "the root cause of war on the Korean peninsula" was the presence of 42,000 U.S. troops in the South. It called for phased withdrawal of American soldiers and the reduction of both sides' armed forces to no more than 100,000 troops on each side by 1992.

North Korea did not call for U.S. participation in the proposed December meeting.

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"Unless we do this there cannot be substantial progress in seeking peace and peaceful reunification," the letter said. South and North Korea in recent months have been swapping proposals on improving relations with both sides insisting its plans be accepted and generally rejecting the other nation's proposals.

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Prime Minister Brian Mulroney meets a supporter at a campaign rally in Quebec City last week.

U.S. trade deal at stake in Canada polls

OTTAWA (R) — Only one in three Canadians favours a proposed Canada-U.S. free trade agreement, a poll said Tuesday, after Trade Minister John Crosbie warned the pact would die if the ruling Conservatives failed to win a majority in next week's general election.

Crosbie said a minority Conservative government would not make any deals with the opposition Liberals and New Democrats, who oppose the trade pact, in order to prolong the life of a new government.

"If it's a minority government, how can we last?" Crosbie said Monday during a campaign appearance in Halifax, Nova Scotia. "We are not going to give up on our beliefs."

The minister was commenting after a series of recent polls showed the Conservatives and Liberals running neck-and-neck during the final week of the campaign.

A Gallup Poll released Tuesday showed support for the trade deal at 32 per cent, up from 26 per cent a week ago, while 45 per cent of those surveyed opposed the deal, down from 50 per cent.

Prime Minister Brian Mulroney said in an interview published Monday he would push for passage of free trade legislation even if he headed a minority government.

But the agreement, the dominant issue in the emotional campaign, seems certain to be scrapped under a Conservative minority because of the combined Liberal-New Democrat opposition.

"I doubt very much whether we would be in power very long in Ottawa if we are in a minority," Crosbie said. "There would be a quick assassination of the government by the combined opposition, I would think."

The trade agreement, already approved in the United States and warmly endorsed by the Reagan administration, is scheduled to take effect Jan. 1.

It would gradually eliminate remaining tariffs and non-tariff trade barriers over a 10-year period. Canada and the United States share the world's largest trading relationship.

Liberal leader John Turner and Ed Broadbent, leader of the New Democrats, have sustained emotional campaign themes arguing that Canada's political sovereignty will be sacrificed through closer economic links with the United States.

Turner, a former corporate lawyer and one-time finance minister, has promised to seek an early meeting with U.S. President-elect Bush if he wins the election to explain his opposition to the trade pact.

Abandoned dolphins await travel orders

CAIRO (R) — Two performing dolphins abandoned in Cairo swim endless circles in a hotel pool, sometimes biting at people who get too close.

Marine wildlife specialists are battling to save them but fear legal problems will defeat their efforts.

"If they stay here, they will die," said British consultant Doug Cartledge, standing by the pool that has been home to Nimo and Lino for the past year.

"We cannot help until they are confiscated," added Jon Kershaw, curator of an Aquarium Park in Antibes, France. "Once they get Egyptian nationality, we'll get them out of here."

The man has been the bane of Nimo and Lino.

The two male dolphins are caught in a legal battle between their owner and the Meridien Hotel. The owner abandoned them in the pool after the hotel cancelled his show last May 31.

Meridien General Manager Edouard Speck says the dolphins have cost the hotel about \$60,000 in lost revenue and payments for maintenance since the show stopped.

Unknowledgeable about dolphin care, the hotel appointed an ex-bellhop who had worked with dolphin trainers to keep the graceful mammals alive. Occasionally, a doctor was called when they appeared in bad health.

Two weeks ago the hotel sought foreign help, and at about the same time, Lino stopped eating.

"It looked for a couple of days that we are going to lose him," said Cartledge.

News reports in Britain prompted the British government to ask Egyptian authorities to save Lino and Nimo.

Cartledge and Kershaw say the hotel has done its best to keep the dolphins healthy and speak disparagingly of the way the mammals' Swiss owner, Bruno Lienhardt, looked after them.

Cartledge, who once worked as curator of Australia's sea world, said: "Now the owner says he wants them back. That's what we've got to prevent."

Lienhardt left Egypt after the show was cancelled and was not available for comment.

Cartledge wanted to return the dolphins, taken from the sea near Guatemala about seven years ago, to their natural habitat.

But he and Kershaw now agree that this would mean certain death for Lino, still sick and underweight.

"It's like sending an astronaut into space when he's not fit," said Kershaw. "There's a lot of stuff out there he's not ready for."

Kershaw said that if an Egyptian court decided to hand the dolphins into their care, Nimo and Lino would probably be flown to Antibes.

she was drafted to lead the league, now the country's largest opposition party.

Hasina came into the political limelight after General Hosain Mohammad Ershad seized power in March 1982 and was chosen in 1983 to lead a 15-party alliance opposed to his rule.

Khaleda Zia, 41, saw her husband, President Ziaur Rahman, killed in an abortive 1981 coup, then joined the Bangladesh Nationalist Party he founded and became party president in December 1983.

The two women's separate popularity gradually turned them into rivals, but under pressure from their followers they agreed to lead the agitation for change jointly.

They fell out early this year, accusing each other of bad faith, so easing the pressure on Ershad for the time being.

Back in Bangladesh in 1980,

good chance of coming to power for a third time.

She is the biggest threat to the ruling United National Party of President Junius Jayewardene, which is fielding Prime Minister Ranasinghe Premadasa to replace the aged president.

Bangladesh's two main opposition leaders, Sheikh Hasina and Begum Khaleda Zia, inherited political prominence after the deaths of father and husband, respectively.

Hasina Wazed, 42, is the eldest daughter of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, head of the Awami League and the founding father of Bangladesh, who was killed in a military coup in August 1975.

She entered student politics at Dhaka University and later lived in Britain and India with her nuclear-physicist husband.

Army sends troops to Sinhalese south

COLOMBO (AP) — The government Wednesday dispatched more troops to the south to try to halt a wave of strikes, demonstrations and violence instigated by Sinhalese militants, officials said.

Nine people were injured Wednesday when a bomb was hurled at a bus in Ja-Ela, just north of Colombo, military officials said.

A day earlier, Sinhalese extremists killed at least seven people in Colombo suburbs and the south, said the military officials, speaking on conditions of anonymity.

Four of the victims were shot to death in Elipitiya, about 80 kilometres south of Colombo, the military officials said. The others were drivers of state-operated public buses attacked near Colombo, they added.

Soldiers were dispatched to southern province in the Sinhalese heartland after the region's top official, Chief Minister M.S. Amarasinghe, appealed for help.

Anti-government strikes called by the People's Liberation Front,

a Sinhalese radical group, has brought normal activity to a virtual standstill in southern province. State-run buses have not operated and schools, shops and offices have been closed for two weeks.

Amarasinghe said the army troops would try to provide security and force people to return to work.

The front has called strikes throughout most of Sri Lanka in an attempt to force President Junius R. Jayewardene to dissolve parliament and resign.

It accuses Jayewardene, himself a Sinhalese, of selling out the interests of the island nation's majority ethnic group in his attempts to pacify a separatist rebellion by minority Tamils.

The front's wrath was aroused by the July 29, 1987, peace accord designed to end the Tamil rebellion by offering limited Tamil autonomy if the guerrillas surrendered their arms. The Tamils rejected the accord and are now fighting Indian peacekeeping troops dispatched to disarm them.

Pretoria killer wanted whites-only country

JOHANNESBURG (R) — The ex-police man who went on an anti-black shooting spree in Pretoria belonged to an ultra-right wing group seeking a whites-only state in South Africa which would strictly exclude blacks.

The man, a self-confessed neo-fascist, was suspended from the police force for two months last year after he was photographed with the head of a decapitated black man.

Bleeding victims littered a street in the capital Tuesday after the gunman, wearing a camouflage jacket, went on a shooting rampage apparently inspired by racial hatred.

Passers-by dived for cover as the gunman, who was laughing and smiling, strode calmly up to black pedestrians and shot them with a nine millimetre semi-automatic pistol, eyewitnesses said.

"He walked over to a woman, pointed a pistol at her body and shot her in the side," shop assistant Iqsaan Hoosen told reporters.

"Her little boy stood there dumbstruck."

"Then he turned his pistol on two men standing on either side of the woman and shot them."

Police, who arrested the gunman after a chase, said he was 23-year-old Barend Strydom, a member of the white supremacist Afrikaner Weerstandsbeweging (Afrikaner Resistance Movement or AWW).

He also told police he was the leader of the White Wolves, a shadowy white guerrilla group which has claimed responsibility for recent attacks on anti-apartheid groups and churches.

Law and Order Minister Adriaan Vlok told a political rally in Pretoria hours after the shooting that the government would act mercilessly against radicals.

The government has repeatedly warned groups like the AWW, whose members wear paramilitary uniforms, carry guns and model themselves on Adolf Hitler's Brownshirts, not to go too far.

COLUMN 8

10-year-old boy steals bus

NEW YORK (R) — A 10-year-old boy stole a \$170,000 New York City bus Monday and took it for a four-block ride that ended after he sideswiped a fire engine and a car and then crashed into a pillar. Police said Tuesday the boy jumped from the window of the bus just before it crashed and escaped with minor injuries. The boy took the bus from a city depot where it was to be repaired.

Picasso falls to meet expected price

NEW YORK (AP) — A Pablo Picasso painting was pulled off the auction block when bidding failed to top \$7 million Tuesday, one day after a painting of a mother and son was auctioned for nearly \$25 million. The audience at Christie's auction house groaned when bidding for "Woman With a Mandolin" stopped. The painting from the artist's cubist period was expected to bring at least \$8 million, and the top bid of \$7 million was not considered acceptable by the seller, Christie's said. "Woman With a Mandolin" was the latest in a series of blockbuster paintings to be offered at auction in New York this month. However, the portrait was not considered to be in the same class as "Maternity," the blue period painting that set a record Monday night for the sale of a 20th century work of art. Last week, two Jasper Johns paintings set records for the sale of contemporary art.

Rio 'candidate' is behind bars

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — One alternative candidate for Rio city prefect spent election day behind bars. A 25-year-old chimpanzee called Tiao was backed by two satirical magazines for the city's top political post in municipal elections held across Brazil Tuesday. The magazines suggested voters show their frustration with politicians by writing the monkey's name on their ballots. The campaign had had wide publicity. The respected newsmagazine Veja recently put Tiao on its front cover to illustrate an article on voter dissatisfaction. The monkey's keeper, Waldemiro Ramos da Silva, told Reuters the candidate was enjoying election day but appeared unmoved by the attention. His cage was surrounded in the morning by visitors, journalists and photographers.

Gorbachev breaks Kremlin tradition

MOSCOW (R) — Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev caught a bus at Oryol airport like an ordinary citizen Monday in an unprecedented move captured on film by Soviet television. Gorbachev, who flew to the central Russian city of Oryol to open a top-level meeting of Communist Party leaders on the country's food shortage, boarded a white bus with red, orange and purple stripes after a welcoming ceremony at the airport. The sleek black Zil limousines that usually carry the Kremlin leader and his entourage were nowhere in sight. Normally they stand waiting as Gorbachev speaks to crowds, as he did for several minutes at Oryol in a softly falling snow. The scene was broadcast Monday evening's television news bulletin, showing the bus door swing open for the Kremlin leader and the crowd waving goodbye as the bus drove off. Soviet citizens who saw the report said they could not recall the last time they saw a Kremlin leader board a bus.

Another pilot follows 'Black Baron'

PARIS (R) — Another daredevil pilot has buzzed Paris at night in a light plane, five days after authorities halted similar stunts by an amateur flier dubbed the "Black Baron." Police said Tuesday they had spotted an unidentified light plane making an illegal night-time flight over the city, swooping low across the Champs-Elysees and the nearby presidential palace before flying off towards the south. Last week, Albert Maltret, 52, "Black Baron" who astonished the French capital with night-time aerobatics, was grounded for three years and fined \$50,000 francs (\$8,300) after a flight over the Champs-Elysees last month. Paris has strict laws against low-altitude flying. A rash of flights in the summer had police posted on the city's highest landmarks, scanning the night skies with powerful binoculars.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Waldheim drops libel suits

VIENNA (R) — President Kurt Waldheim is dropping libel actions against three magazines and a man carrying advertising boards over allegations he was involved in Nazi war crimes. "In view of his approaching 70th birthday, President Dr. Kurt Waldheim has ordered the cessation of all proceedings... in Austrian courts," his office said Tuesday. "He took this step in view of the fact that international and national institutions have confirmed that he cannot be accused of personal culpable behaviour," the office said. "This measure also follows from the president's constant efforts to calm matters down and for reconciliation." A commission of international historians concluded earlier this year that Waldheim, who will be 70 Dec. 21, paved the way for war crimes when he served with Hitler's army in the Balkans but left open the question of his personal guilt.

'Mafia controls parts of Italy'

ROME (R) — Italy's anti-mafia chief said Tuesday some areas of Sicily and southern Italy were completely controlled by the mafia and it was the state which had now to try to recapture the territory. Speaking to parliament's anti-mafia committee, Domenico Sica said: "In some regions possession of the territory by criminal organisations is total." He said if the public felt he was painting too black a picture, it only had to look at the suffocating security and police escorts needed by officials. "The consequence is that it is now the state itself which needs to reinfiltrate the territory — in any way possible and with all its energies," said Sica, who was appointed high commissioner for coordinating the fight against the mafia three months ago. Sica, a former senior magistrate who specialised in terrorism investigations, said the central power behind the mafia may have moved

out of Sicily as the organisation grew larger and richer.

Doctors report on past 'pill'

NEW YORK (R) — Women who have stopped using birth control pills do not have any greater risk of heart disease than women who never used oral contraceptives, doctors report in the latest New England Journal of Medicine. While women currently on the pill are at greater risk for coronary disease, those who have stopped have the same risk as non-users, even if they used the pill for a long time or stopped only recently, Dr. Meir Stampfer and colleagues at Harvard Medical School wrote in the Nov. 17 journal. "The findings we report provide generally reassuring evidence that the risks of cardiovascular diseases faced by past users of oral contraceptives appear to be similar to those for women who have never used such agents," they wrote.

India's prostitutes protest

BOMBAY (AP) — Hundreds of prostitutes marched out of the city's biggest red-light district Tuesday night with a list of demands for better treatment for themselves and their children. While the women, including ageing brothel keepers who grew up in the profession and now supervise younger prostitutes, marched for six kilometres through the streets of Bombay, a small delegation met state officials. Their demands included free medical care, education for their children, protection from thugs, and an end to police harassment and exploitation by money lenders. After a meeting with the highest elected official of Maharashtra state, Chief Minister Sharad Pawar, the delegation announced to a cheering crowd that all their demands had been granted. The government had no immediate comment.

South Asian women shining stars in the political horizon

By Hugh Pain
Reuters

NEW DELHI — The Indian subcontinent, the former British Raj, has once again thrust a woman into contention for real political power.

The campaign of Benazir Bhutto in Pakistan's parliamentary election has underscored the strange position of women in South Asia, where they are often discriminated against in everyday life and often called upon to run their countries.

Outside the Europe of Margaret Thatcher, the modern world has produced few women political leaders apart from Corazon Aquino of Philippines and the former Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir.

Most of the rest have been in South Asia Benazir Bhutto in Pakistan, Indira Gandhi in India, Sirima Bandaranaike in

Sri Lanka and Sheikh Hasina and Begum Khaleda Zia in Bangladesh.

Added to them might be Burma's Aung San Suu Kyi, daughter of slain national hero Aung San and one of the opposition leaders who emerged in that country's turmoil this year, completing the feminist sweep of the former British India.

In every case the woman in power or contending for power has achieved her public role not on her own, but by being the daughter or wife of a political leader.

None of the subcontinent's three great religions, Buddhism, Hinduism and Islam, promote women's rights, but all stress the family and that helps explain the rise of the region's women leaders.

All of them have reached the top after the deaths — usually violent — of their menfolk.

Benazir Bhutto became the natural focus of political opposition after army chief General Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq ousted her father, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, in a coup in 1977. He was hanged two years later on disputed murder conspiracy charges.

Zia ruled Pakistan for 11 years until his death in a mysterious air crash Aug. 17 this year.

Oxford-educated Benazir inherited her father's political mantle but remained in and out of detention until 1984 when she went into European self-exile.

She returned in 1986 to a huge and